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PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

GENERAL QUARTERLY BOARD,

OF THE

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum,

HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 1830,



WITH THE OFFICIAL PAPERS.

LINCOLN:

PRINTED BY EDWARD B. DRURY, NEXT THE BANK.

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Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, May 31, 1830.

At a Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors, holden this day :

Present,---Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead, Bart, V. P. in the Chair.

Thomas Brailsford, Esq.
Rev. H. W. Sibthorp
Mr. Ald. Snow *Auditor*.
Mr. Wroot
Dr. Cookson
Capt. Wright

Rev. W. M. Pierce
Mr. Edward Fowler
The Very Rev. the Dean,
V. P.
W. B. Burton, Esq.
H. Hutton, Esq. *Auditor*.

Dr. Charlesworth
Rev. J. Loft
Mr. Ald. Steel
Mr. E. Gibbeson

At this Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors, the Report of the weekly Visitor having been read, in which it was stated, that in his presence the most violent and insulting language had been used by the Director of the Asylum, to the Physician of the month, and the Director having in consequence been called before the Board, and having repeated the same improper language in the presence of the whole Board,—

This Weekly Board being of opinion that in a matter of such essential concern to the best interests of the Institution, no time should be lost in appealing to the Governors at large,—

Ordered,—That a *Special General Board* of Governors be summoned to be held on Monday the 21st day of June, at 12 o'clock, to take into consideration the conduct of the Director, as detailed in the Visitor's Report of the 30th instant, and to adopt such measures as may appear most advisable thereupon.

E. Ff. BROMHEAD, Chairman.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, June 21, 1830.

At a Special General Board of Governors, holden here this day :

Present,---The Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

The Rev. Sir C. J. Anderson,
Bart., V. P.
Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, Bart.,
V. P.
The Very Rev. the Dean,
V. P.
J. Fardell, Esq. *Treasurer*
H. Hutton, Esq. *Auditor*
R. Collett, Esq.
W. B. Burton, Esq.
John Uppleby, Esq.
John Loft, Esq.
F. Goe, Esq.

Thos. Brailsford, Esq.
Charles Hayward, Esq.
W. Welfit, Esq.
Dr. Cookson
Z. Barton, Esq.
Dr. Charlesworth
Dr. Beaty
Rev. J. Loft
C. Wing, Esq.
Rev. H. J. Stephenson
James Hitchins, Esq.
Rev. W. M. Pierce
Mr. Thomas Mason

Mr. Wroot
Mr. Ald. Snow, *Auditor*
Mr. Ald. Steel
Mr. Ald. Norton
E. Fowler, Esq.
Mr. E. Gibbeson
W. Loft, Esq.
Mr. Ingleman
Mr. Morris
Col. Elmhirst
W. Loft, Esq. jun.
Mr. Ald. Winn

Mr. Fisher having this day tendered his resignation,—

Resolved,—That this Board is willing to accept his resignation, and does hereby accept the same accordingly ; the Physician of the month, the party more immediately aggrieved, having previously signified his assent.

That the respectful thanks of this Board be offered to the Very Reverend the Dean, for bringing the Director's conduct before the Governors.

Mr. Fisher having offered to act until the appointment of another Director,

Resolved,—That the same be accepted until the 31st day of July next.

That £100. per annum be specified in the advertisement, as the salary of the new Director.

YARBOROUGH, Chairman.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, June 21, 1830.

At a Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors, holden this day :

Present,---The Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, PRESIDENT, in the Chair

Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, Bart., V. P.	James Hitchins, Esq. Rev. H. J. Stevenson	F. Goe, Esq. W. Loft, Esq. jun
The Very Rev. the Dean, V. P.	Dr. Charlesworth Mr. Ald. Steel	C. Wing, Esq. J. Loft, Esq.
T. Brailsford, Esq.	Rev. W. M. Pierce	W. Loft, Esq.
W. Welfit, Esq.	Z. Barton, Esq.	
J. Fardell, Esq. <i>Treasurer.</i>	Rev. J. Loft	

Ordered,—That a Special General Board of Governors, for the Election of a Director to this Institution, be summoned to meet at the Asylum, on Wednesday the 28th day of July, at 12 o'clock, and that Certificates of qualifications be transmitted to the Secretary, on or before Saturday the 24th of July.

YARBOROUGH, Chairman.

(Advertisement.)

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, June 21, 1830.

Notice is hereby Given,

That a Director is wanted for this Institution; and that a Special General Board of Governors will be holden at the Asylum, on Wednesday the 28th day of July next, at 12 o'clock, for electing a Director accordingly. The candidates are requested to send in their names on or before the 24th day of July next, to Mr. John Hartley, the Secretary, Castle-hill, Lincoln (if by letter post paid); and they are requested to offer the fullest testimonials which they can procure, as to moral character and all other requisite qualifications.

The Director is required by the rules of this Institution, to superintend the House, and undertake the office of Apothecary. His salary is fixed at £100. per annum, he is required to be a member of the established church, unmarried, and free from the burthen of children and the care of a family, and not exceeding the age of 45 years.

By Order,
JNO. HARTLEY, Secretary.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, July 28, 1830.

At a Special General Meeting of the Governors holden this day :

Present,---Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead, Bart., V. P. in the Chair.

Rev. H. W. Sibthorp	Mr. Padley	Mr. Gilbert
Dr. Beaty	Mr. Ald. Snow	H. George, Esq.
James Hitchins, Esq.	Mr. Luke Trotter	J. Cartwright, Esq.
Mr. Ald. Norton	Mr. E. Fowler	Rev. J. A. Morris
Mr. Morris	Mr. E. Gibbeson	Rev. P. Curtois
Mr. Ald. Fowler	Col. Elmhirst	Capt. Acton
Dr. Cookson	Thomas Brailsford, Esq.	Rev. G. D. Kent
Rev. H. I. Stephenson	H. Hutton, Esq.	George Lister, Esq.
S. Solly, Esq.	Rev. W. M. Pierce	W. Loft, jun. Esq.
Capt. Brown	Rev. J. Loft	Mr. Ald. Winn
P. Bullen, Esq.	W. B. Burton, Esq.	Mr. Mason
Mr. Coats	Z. Barton, Esq.	Mr. Wroot
John Uppleby, Esq.	Mr. E. Edman	Mr. Ald. Steel
W. Welfit, Esq.	Mr. Tongue	Dr. Charlesworth

And Nine proxies were given in.

A motion being made that Mr. Fisher is not eligible to be put in nomination, the same was rejected on division.

Dr. Borton,
Mr. Fisher,
Mr. Marston,
Mr. Atto,

being respectively put in nomination, the votes and proxies were as follows :—

Dr. Borton	7
Mr. Fisher	30
Mr. Marston	12
Mr. Atto	1

when Mr. Fisher was declared to be duly elected.

Resolved,—That the Director be cautioned by the Chairman as to his future conduct and demeanour towards the Governors, and especially towards the Physicians of the Institution.

That Dr. Borton, Mr. Marston, and Mr. Atto be requested to accept Five Guineas each towards their expenses, from the circumstance of a re-election having taken place.

E. Ff. BROMHEAD, Chairman.

THE ASYLUM MINUTES.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, August 2, 1830.

At a Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors, holden this day :

Present,---The Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, **PRESIDENT**, in the Chair.

Thomas Brailsford, Esq.
William Loft, Esq. jun.
Dr. Cookson
Mr. E. Fowler
W. B. Burton
John Uppleby, Esq.
Rev. J. Mackinnon
John Loft, Esq.

Mr. Alderman Snow
Dr. Charlesworth
A. Welby, Esq.
The Very Rev. the Dean,
V. P.
H. Hutton, Esq. Auditor.
Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, Bart.,
V. P.

W. Welfit, Esq.
Rev. J. Loft
Rev. Sir C. Anderson, Bt.
V. P.
Rev. John Gordon
F. Goe, Esq.

Resolved,

That a Special General Board be convened to revise the proceedings relative to Mr. Thomas FISHER, and to proceed in the Election of one of the Candidates duly declared at the last Special General Board, to the office of Director, and that the said Board do meet at the Asylum, on Monday the 30th day of August instant, at 12 o'clock.

That the resignation of Mr. Thomas Fisher at the General Board, prevented his dismissal for his long continued improper demeanour to the Governors and the Boards, and that his resignation was accepted solely at the request of one of the Physicians.

That Mr. Thomas Fisher was put in nomination at the last Special General Board without any previous notice on or before Saturday July 24th, as required by the Public Advertisement.

YARBOROUGH, Chairman.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum. August 9, 1830.

At a Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors holden this day :

Present,---Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead, Bart., V. P. in the Chair.

Mr. Padley
Dr. Charlesworth
Dr. Beaty
Dr. Cookson
Mr. Wroot
W. B. Burton, Esq.

Mr. Luke Trotter
Mr. Tongue
Mr. Mason
James Hitchins, Esq.
Mr. Alderman Nerton
Mr. Gilbert

Rev. Mr. Morris
Mr. E. Fowler
Rev. H. W. Sibthorp
Mr. Merryweather
Mr. Edman
Rev. P. Curtois

Resolved,—That the resolutions requiring a Special General Meeting for the 30th instant be now rescinded, and that Mr. Fisher be retained permanently in his situation.

Moved by Mr. Hitchins,

Seconded by the Rev. Mr. Morris.

Resolved,—That the resolution of the Special General Board held on the 28th July, be advertised in the usual County papers, and that the resolutions passed this day be also advertised in consecutive order.

Moved by Mr. Hitchins.

Seconded by Mr. Wroot.

E. Ff. BROMHEAD, Chairman.

Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, August 16, 1830.

At a Meeting of the Weekly Board of Governors, holden this day :

Present,---Colonel Sibthorp, M. P. in the Chair.

Mr. Mason
Mr. E. Fowler
Mr. Ald. Snow *Auditor*.
Dr. Beaty
Mr. Merryweather

Dr. Cookson
H. Hutton, Esq. *Auditor*.
Rev. H. W. Sibthorp
Mr. Wroot
Rev. W. M. Pierce

Dr. Charlesworth
Mr. Luke Trotter
Mr. Alderman Steel
James Hitchins, Esq.
Mr. E. Edman.

Resolved,—That it being the opinion of the Weekly Board, that the re-election of Mr. Fisher to the situation of Director to the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, on the 28th of July, was legal and conformable to the rules of the Institution,

Whereas, the Weekly Board held on the 2nd of August, did order an Advertisement to be inserted in the public papers, calling a meeting of the Governors to be held on the 30th of this month, for the sole purpose of electing a Director,

And that it is unnecessary for the Special Meeting to be held on the 30th of this month, and that the said Special Meeting be postponed sine die.

Resolved,—That the Advertisement of the 2nd of August calling a Special Meeting, be withdrawn from the two Lincoln papers.

Moved by the Rev. H. Sibthorp,
Seconded by Mr. Merryweather.

Resolved,—That the two above Resolutions be inserted in the usual papers.

CHARLES D. W. SIBTHORP.

To the GOVERNORS of the LUNATIC ASYLUM.

GENTLEMEN,

I Do earnestly request a full attendance of GOVERNORS of the LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM at the GENERAL QUARTERLY MEETING, to be holden on the 13th day of OCTOBER next.

I have the honor to be, Gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble Servant,

YARBOROUGH, President.

Brocklesby, 23d August, 1830.

LINCOLN LUNATIC ASYLUM,

Wednesday, October 13th, 1830.

At 12 o'clock, about 180 Governors of this institution, had assembled on the premises. Lord Yarborough on entering the Board Room said, "Gentlemen, as President of this institution, I here give notice that it is past 12 o'clock, and I allow a quarter of an hour longer for paying Subscriptions and for registering the Names of new governors : I also give notice that I expect every Governor to pay his arrears ; I mean to have all the money down, and each name recorded."

Then turning to the Secretary, the President said,—“ I have been told that the Subscriptions of several persons, who voted at the Meeting which restored Mr. Fisher, were not paid to you, Mr. Secretary, until some days afterwards ; and that no entry of the cash appeared in any of the official books of the institution : I ask you, therefore, Mr. Secretary, whether this is the actual truth or not ? ”

The Secretary replied, “ It is true, my Lord.”

Lord Yarborough. —“ How long afterwards was it before you received the money ? ”

The Secretary. —“ More than a week.”

Lord Yarborough. —“ From whom did you receive it ? ”

The Secretary. —“ From Mr. Fisher.”

Lord Yarborough. —“ Is it also true that several of these persons refused to give their names at that meeting ? ”

The Secretary replied in the affirmative.

His Lordship then calling attention, said, “ It is necessary to prevent such irregularity in future : I order you to close the books exactly at the end of the time allowed, and to suffer no new Governor to vote, whose name is not registered, and the money paid before the books are closed.—Let Mr. Fisher be called in and be made acquainted with this arrangement.”

The usual Board Room being wholly inadequate for the meeting, the noble chairman took his seat in the new gallery, which opens into an extensive airing court. This fine apartment was sufficient to contain the company present, but could not, from its structure, allow the speakers to be either seen or heard by the whole party.—The governors then removed to the great portico in front of the building; when the proceedings partially commenced; and the minutes of the preceding Quarter, were read by the secretary, as usual, from July 14, down to some of the last boards, but calls for adjournment to the County Courts and other complaints interrupted the business.

At length Col. Sibthorp called out that the public reporters ought to record that a number of Governors could not hear.

Sir E. Ff. Bromhead said it was understood that Mr. Hitchins had raised a question on the legality of adjourning off the Ground. Under these circumstances, when the whole case had been made matter of law, and after having been threatened with high legal authorities, they ought to shew some caution; as it was quite clear that the *Weekly Board* could not be held except at the Asylum, on considering all that had passed, he wished for some distinct understanding, that no legal advantage would be taken afterwards.

Col. Sibthorp, M. P. said that on referring to the rules, handed to him by the Hon. Bart., he did not find that the limitation which applied to the *Weekly Boards*, extended to the *General Boards*; on the contrary, they had an express power to adjourn from time to time, without any restriction whatever. This was properly a discretion of the President, considering the threatened length of the debate, and the unfavorable aspect of the weather.

Mr. Hitchins, stated, they were not, he hoped, met to discuss legal quirks and quibbles. The Chairman having once taken the chair, and opened the business, the power to remove to another place, would be invested in him.

The sense of the Meeting seemed decidedly against the delay of another removal, if the business could possibly be got through on the spot; but the inconvenience of want of seats, the cold weather, and a threatening shower, rapidly increased the number of dissentients.

Finally, the Chairman, being frequently appealed to, as to an adjournment to the County Hall, asked if it were left to him to decide; when all agreeing on that, he decided for the adjournment; and the whole company repaired to the *NISI PRIUS COURT*, in the County Hall.

Lord Yarborough, on taking his seat, observed; that he was never in a judge's seat before; he, good humouredly cut short all further delay; & ordered the names entered on the minute book to be called over, to allow the entry of Governors accidentally omitted; the names being taken, the official Reports of the weekly

visitors for the preceding quarter were then read : and his Lordship addressed himself to the meeting in the following manner :—

Gentlemen, it is natural to suppose, as many of you have not been in the habit of attending to the business of this institution, that you expect an explanation from me, of the causes that induced me to take the liberty of writing a letter to the Governors of the institution, to request a full attendance on this day. I did so, Gentlemen, from what I considered in the first place. the improper conduct of Mr. Fisher, as the Director of this institution, and also in consequence of an irregularity which I conceived had taken place. It appears, Gentlemen, that Mr. Fisher in May last, did make use of very improper language to the visiting physician, Dr. Charlesworth, during the discharge of his duty, & in the presence of one of the Governors of this institution ; and his conduct was reported at a weekly board held on the 31st May.—I desire the Secretary to read the Minutes of that Meeting.—This Weekly Board took Mr. Fisher's conduct into consideration, and it was reported to me, that the same kind of language was again repeated before the Governors of that board, when a Special General Board of Governors was summoned for the 21st day of June, to decide upon Mr. Fisher's conduct.

I thought in the situation in which I stand as President of this institution, that I ought to attend the Special Meeting, (*Loud cheers*), because I was perfectly convinced that it must inevitably be the ruin of the institution, if an officer were allowed to make use of improper language to a Physician, and still more so, if that language was suffered to be repeated before a Board of Governors.—At this General Board of Governors Mr. Fisher's conduct was taken into consideration. He was called upon for his defence on this occasion ; and he uttered the most extraordinary, improper, and violent language I have ever heard in my life, before any court or before any board—expressions that could not, I am sure, be borne out or justified by any circumstances. There is an expression which I must read, because it was taken down at the time : it is this ;—“ I used language in my letters that would have called a coward from his grave ; but this snivelling pusillanimous coward, went snivelling to his Reverend confessor, and Dr. Charlesworth was borne off harmless under the banners of the church.”—The question then came on whether Mr. Fisher ought to be discharged or not ; Drs. Cockson, Charlesworth, and Beatty all declaring it was language that could not be supported. The Rev. Mr. Stephenson during the debate went out of the room, and on his return said, “ there is no occasion for you to continue this debate ; Mr. Fisher has authorised me to say, that he has resigned.”—Upon this being announced, the debate took another turn, and the question then was, whether Mr. Fisher's resignation should or should not be accepted. Dr. Charlesworth, the Physician against whom the insulting language had been princi-

pally directed, stated that he had no objection to receive Mr. Fisher's resignation, and I can assure the Governors present, that from pure good nature alone, Mr. Fisher was allowed to resign, in order that nothing should appear in the books of the institution against him. This being the case, he did resign, and an Advertisement was ordered to be inserted in the papers, for candidates to give in their names.—[The Secretary here read the Advertisement.]

I forgot to state, before the advertisement was read, that being directed to call Mr. Fisher into the room, I then told him his resignation was accepted. I am sure I wish on all occasions, to be as kind as I can when I have an unfortunate circumstance to communicate to any person (*Cheers*); I did not wish that he should leave the house immediately; I asked him how long he wished to stay; that he might suit his own convenience, until another Director was elected. His answer was after a pause of some agitation,—“I think in about six weeks it will be Dr. Charlesworth's turn to visit; I will act as long as it is not his turn, but I will not act in his month.”

The Resolutions of this meeting I will desire the Secretary to read over. [The Secretary then read the Resolutions of June 21, 1830.] That meeting then proceeded without delay to pass the following Resolution, which the Secretary will also read:—

Ordered,—“That a Special General Board of Governors, for the Election of a Director to this Institution, be summoned to meet at the Asylum, on Wednesday the 28th day of July, at 12 o'clock, and that Certificates of qualifications be transmitted to the Secretary, on or before Saturday the 24th of July.”

And in pursuance of this, the Advertisement (just now read) was issued, in which it was provided, that candidates should send in their names 4 days previous to the day of election.—I did not attend some of the meetings that followed, because I had no wish to interfere in the appointment of a new Director, and I thought that with the assistance of the Physicians, the Governors would do their duty. On all occasions wherein my attendance would be of importance, as President of this institution, I will be at my post (*loud cheers*): and it was a perfect confidence, that there would be no attempt to introduce Mr. Fisher after the judgement which had been passed on him, that occasioned me to prefer being absent. If the terms of the advertisement had been complied with by Mr. Fisher, and had his name been given in, with those of the three other candidates, there would have been less room to censure the manner in which the governors were taken by surprise. Upon that occasion, however, new Governors were brought forward, and I shall leave it to this meeting to decide how far their acts were to be justified. [The Secretary here read the Minutes of July 28.]

At the subsequent Weekly Board, on the 2d of Aug., I attended, and considering the welfare of the institution to be most materially affected by the re-instating of Mr. Fisher, after he had been allowed to

resign, in order to avoid being dismissed, my enquiries were directed towards precedents, for revising the proceedings of Special General Boards; & in 1827 there was found an instance set by those Gentlemen themselves, who support Mr. Fisher, in which a Weekly Board had called a special meeting to revise the proceedings of a General Board.

Whether the practice of making governors for certain occasions be good or otherwise, it is unnecessary now to inquire: the power was in existence, and had been resorted to by these Gentlemen for their specific purposes, nor could he object to the exercise of the right, provided it was done according to order. On the late occasion, however, the new Governors who refused giving their names, had paid their money to Mr. Fisher: and on enquiry, he found the money was not paid to the Institution till the week after. His Lordship named the good will he bore to all the physicians: Dr. Cookson had attended him at a former occasion in a period of sickness; & he should ever gratefully remember his kindness; from Dr. Charlesworth he had ever received great kindness and attention; and his exertions to benefit the institution they were seeking to support, had been indefatigable: Dr. Beaty he knew and esteemed from a former residence in his neighbourhood; he hoped they would in future act together, for the benefit of the Asylum. His Lordship concluded with loud and general applause.

Rev. H. Sibthorp.—My Lord, I have risen thus early in the discussion, to express my surprise at this subject still being agitated. I had supposed that the question of Mr. Fisher's eligibility had been set at rest, and cannot conceal my surprise at the proceedings which subsequently took place,—it would seem that nothing short of the removal of Mr. Fisher would satisfy some persons.—As for showing any disrespect to the President, I utterly disclaim any such intention, nor can consider any disrespect was shown: and if irregularity were charged upon the meetings, that irregularity had its commencement with the Gentlemen who complained. I am wholly actuated by a strong desire to see the institution maintain its usefulness and extend its benefits, and I deplore the continual divisions which are kept alive, which can only terminate in the ruin of the Asylum. It was very surprising that the precedent quoted by his Lordship had not been mentioned at the time, either by the Hon. Bart. then in the chair, nor by Dr. Charlesworth, who was present, and had every rule and document of the Institution at his fingers' ends. (*laughter.*)

Dr. Cookson.—I believe I have served the Asylum as much, or more than any other person, be he who he may; from its commencement to the present time, I have been the means of advancing its prosperity, & in obtaining very large benefactions towards its support. As long as I retained any influence in the management, its funds were disbursed with carefulness, and it was in a flourishing condition. Subsequently, a most extravagant management has expended vast sums in buildings, which were neither one thing nor another;

& had been the means of destroying two large gardens which afforded salutary occupation to the patients, & a piggery, which produced to the Asylum at a comparatively trifling cost, more than 140 stones of bacon per ann; all this, and much more of real value, had been superseded by fantastical plans of Dr. Charlesworth's. As to the reappointment of Mr. F. he did not think of it; for while on a tour round the country, he had visited several institutions, and enquired whether they could recommend a person who was qualified to undertake the office of Director, but the reply he invariably received, was, "I do not know of such a person; and you will find it very difficult to meet with one," and when I returned I attended the meeting. I say now what I said then, that none of the candidates who offered themselves, were qualified; and although some persons have talked about libels and actions, I care not one jot for them; I do say they were not qualified. The Director ought to be a person of some experience, and be able to judge with sound discretion; but how can so young a man as Mr. Marston possess those qualifications? Now with regard to Mr. Fisher, he was a most invaluable servant, and yet some Governors had talked about his not being qualified. As for anonymous letters, and one which had been threatened with a prosecution, he took upon himself to declare that he was the writer who signed "*Amicus.*" (*Hear, hear.*) Gentlemen might cry hear, hear, but he expressed an opinion, which, although it might be offensive to some gentlemen, was an opinion that was pretty general, and he defied any one either to contradict it, or to say it contained falsehood. He cared not what others thought, he was quite independent of them, and he did consider that Mr. Fisher was duly elected; and turning him out, which he knew was intended, would be unjust towards Mr. Fisher, and unfair to the institution.

Sir Charles Anderson, Bt., said, that after the able exposition of the Chairman, he had little to do. He was one who could not have dreamt of the re-appointment of Mr. Fisher, after such conduct as that which he had been guilty of. The language used in his defence, could not be justified by any time, place, or occasion; and was marked by a violence as extraordinary as any thing that could come from man.—(*Hear, hear, and loud applause.*) He wished those who doubted him, to hear an extract taken from Mr. Fisher's written defence:—"I used language in my letters, that would have called a coward from his grave: but this snivelling pusillanimous coward went snivelling to his Reverend Confessor, and Dr. Charlesworth was borne off harmless under the banners of the church."—Such language as this was intolerable; and formed not only part of his deliberately written defence, but of his general conduct and bearing towards other Governors. Where was the subordination of the establishment, under such circumstances? It must all fall to the ground.—Sir Charles then noticed the odious insinuation against the Dean of Lincoln; than whom a man more honorable, more amiable could not be found in the whole county;

shrouded as he was by the sacred mantle of universal esteem, environed by a host of friends; and protected by a character of unsullied purity: the shafts of malevolence fell harmless to the earth; heaping reproach and ignominy only on the heads of those who dealt them. (*Loud & continued applause.*) Sir Charles Anderson then alluded to the mass of anonymous writing by which they had been assailed; which he strongly censured; and though they had only just now got *view* of the old Fox, threading these covers of the Press, he might now say, with that facetious fox-hunter, old John Evans, "We have had a *hot scent*, we have fairly run him to ground, and, at last, have *bolted him*!"—(*Loud shouts of laughter and applause.*)

Dr. Cookson here asked for some explanation of this allusion, and whether it was meant to be applied to him?

Sir C. Anderson continued; and remarking on the parties being *unearthed*, said "O no" (*loud laughter.*) He deprecated the party spirit that had arisen; and remarked strongly on the permissive resignation of Mr. Fisher, under the circumstances of a merited expulsion; and said that he should have opposed his re-appointment under such an irregular proceeding even if he had stood alone. (*loud applause.*)

Sir C. Anderson then proposed the following resolution:—

That the resignation of Mr. Fisher, at the Special General Board, holden the 21st day of June last, was the only cause which prevented his dismissal by that Board, for long continued impropriety of demeanour, not towards Dr. Charlesworth alone, but towards the Governors and the Boards generally: and that the said Board of the 21st of June, having been induced to accept such resignation, on the full faith that he relinquished all future employ in the institution, his subsequent re-appointment was brought about contrary to this understanding, and without the previous notice called for by the advertisement, and given by the other candidates.

Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, seconded the resolution; the decision of the present meeting was important, as an example to every public institution of the County, and vitally so to the Lincoln Asylum. If this daring spirit of insubordination was not put down with a firm hand, there remained no security against any abuses whatsoever. It had been encouraged by the false lenity shown on too many former occasions; forbearance had been mistaken for weakness or fear, and the evil had increased with rapid strides; one act of defiance passed over justified the next as a kind of right; disrespectful inattention to necessary orders had been followed by disrespect to individuals, by personal hostility, by attempts even to provoke a duel; the whole Boards were publicly insulted, and finally the whole county set at open defiance (*loud cheering*). He was himself as much to blame as any one, he had twice interfered to save Mr. F. from dismissal; for this want of discretion he owed an apology to the Governors; it would be a lesson to him while he lived, never to interrupt the course of justice in discharging insubordinate public servants.—It was wholly unsafe to trifle with this spirit under the erroneous notion that it might be suppressed at any time; when the standard of

insubordination is once unfurled, innumerable passions and enmities are sure to rally round it, and will always find argument for any thing whatsoever (*applause*).—Where divisions exist, or where improvements are attempted, the opposing party will feel disposed to look with a lenient eye on the spirit which promotes their own views, or distresses their opponents. The support thus received encourages further resistance, until at last party spirit gradually draws even well disposed men to countenance what they admit to be wrong, and which in a cooler moment they would regard with the deepest indignation. Personal friends will naturally support a man, nor could they well be blamed for attempting to get him decently out of a difficulty (*laughter*); the faulty constitution of the Asylum, (soon he hoped to be altered) by which any one may at a moment's warning become a Governor for the occasion, facilitated this; they should however have been content with their former success, when he was allowed to retire with flying colors, and should not have attempted to sacrifice the institution.—There were others who, thought it a bold courageous act, for any one to insult those, whom he has engaged to obey. If the noble president on leaving that court were insulted by some fellow on the Castle-hill, however wantonly or unprovokedly, there would be found persons to admire his audacity. (*Laughter*.) The very many anonymous attacks upon his lordship no doubt found persons to admire the manly and bold spirit of the concealed writers; some tastes would consider them as sublime productions! (*A laugh*.) There were others, who would from the best English feeling, rally round a man in an inferior situation, whom they might be taught to consider unfairly oppressed; this might easily occur, where the most extraordinary exertions had been made to misrepresent and color facts, and to state as facts what had never occurred, while the truth was carefully kept out of sight, & calumny unanswered. (*Cheers*.) A journal had been for months almost wholly engaged in this, sometimes containing four or five distinct letters and articles on the same day, and industriously circulated at some expense among the Governors, and among persons who might possibly become Governors. This course had been taken with impunity, and with increased boldness from the knowledge that no reply would be offered. He begged respectfully to differ from his lordship's views, in having advised that no notice was to be taken of such articles, and that no refutation was necessary of anonymous calumnies; beyond a certain point, it was not always safe to let such productions alone; there were great numbers who habitually received as true all which they saw in print and uncontradicted; however absurd or malicious, some impression from such statements would remain. The physician was in truth the oppressed party, he had been persecuted and attacked with the keenest hostility for months or rather for years; he had been attacked as if he possessed no feelings, while not a syllable must be uttered against his enemies. Fortunately the eagerness of attack latterly afforded a glimpse of the truth, and the general character

of the case overbore the most daring misrepresentation of details. The present meeting and the exposures of that day would do him justice. (*Long continued cheering.*)—The matter had been studiously and ingeniously represented as a personal quarrel. It was no such thing. Dr. Charlesworth has not, and never had any, even the smallest personal quarrel with Mr. Fisher (*cheers*); from first to last he had invariably acted with the concurrence of other Governors; his official proceedings, and the deliberate acts of the Boards at which he was present, were the real ground of offence to the Director, and had been publicly mentioned as such by the director himself; he had publicly specified as one ground of offence, the regulation which prevented company from being entertained at the charge of the charity except with the knowledge of the Boards; these very persons may have irritated him on this point. (*No, no.*) Dr. Charlesworth never had shown any enmity whatsoever towards him, he had always manifested a totally different feeling both in print and otherwise. Dr. Charlesworth had not on any single occasion pressed an advantage against Mr. Fisher, no doubt considering him the unconscious agent of others (*Applause*). When Mr. Fisher's demeanour was such as to convict him even in the estimation of his friends, and he was advised to make an apology as the sole expedient to prevent his dismissal, Dr. Charlesworth interposed to save him from the humiliation; subsequently after a most gross public attack, when this misguided person was unanimously and officially reprimanded on the minutes, Dr. Charlesworth goodnaturedly suppressed the fact, which is now published for the first time (*loud applause*); and on the last occasion, no Governor then present could forget his interference, by which he extorted with great difficulty from the Board, their consent to withdraw every thing which might be injurious to Mr. F. in his future prospects. (*Applause.*) An attempt had been made to represent the whole as a hasty effusion of temper, but it was far too deliberate to be so considered; these outrages had occurred five or six times towards the Physician, without adding other occasions; if it was an infirmity, it seemed periodic, the complaint seemed to be a species of intermittent (*laughter*); if a matter of temper, it clearly disqualified the party from filling a situation in which temper was essential.—It was far more probable that this extraordinary conduct was persevered in to induce Dr. C. to fight a duel, and to establish by that means a system of intimidation over the governors. When any salutary measure was to be adopted by the Boards, was it to be endured that a subordinate officer should make it personal, and treat with personal rudeness gentlemen who devoted their time and talents to the improvement of this great county establishment? The mischief of such a principle would be incalculable; such a precedent if successful, would ruin half the institutions in the country; gentlemen of the Laity must cease their charitable exertions, or attend at the pistol mouth and at the peril of their lives. (*Loud cheering.*)—

Mr. F. after long misbehaviour towards the Boards in their collective character, had at last singled out the physician and made a rush at him in particular. That gentleman had however, too much respect for the governors who had acted with him in the great design of extending the advantages of this invaluable institution, to suffer himself to be dragged into a personal conflict for his official acts, as Physician and Governor. If the Director chose to fasten on the Physician the onus of the decisions of the Boards, it was necessary to show that the Governors would support their measures. It is well known that no man has a higher spirit, or one less likely to brook an insult than Dr. Charlesworth; he deserves the gratitude of the public for maintaining a great public principle by his firmness and temper; had he not followed the advice of his friends and of the Dean, in leaving the matter to be redressed by the governors, he would have betrayed the public. (*Hear, hear.*) —This tone of defiance was very far from being confined to Dr. Charlesworth, the Boards themselves were treated in the same manner. The Boards had now for more than two years been thwarted in every possible manner, harrassed by extreme exceptions to their orders, and actually defied. On one occasion when acting as Secretary, he exclaimed, “I do not care whether my legs are under this table, or another.” On another occasion in reference to his accompanying visitors round the Asylum (a necessary caution) he exclaimed, “I will not be your showman.” At another time when desired to read a portion of the Holy Scriptures on Sunday with selected and convalescent patients, and with the keepers and servants, who were prevented from attending divine worship, he answered publicly in the Board-room, that “He would not, he was not engaged for that purpose, he had not the Call of Grace;” this was subsequently made a matter of conscience! What sort of conscience must that be, which could refuse to perform such a duty for a household under his care? Some of the first noblemen in the land are in the habit of reading family prayers to their family and domestics; (*vehement applause*); but he was not required even to read prayers, it was only a chapter or two from the scriptures; the assigned reason of a want of grace proved at least, that religious principle had nothing to do with the matter. In another case when the Board was making a general review of the expenditure, which was principally supplied from the poorer patients’ own payments, when they justly considered that not a farthing should be issued except for definite and known objects, when they wished to place the dinner party system under some regulation, at least so far as to know its extent, he makes a mock entry in his official journal, stating that so and so had called upon him, and adding to this effect, “I sent out for cheese 4d, bread 3d, which they partly devoured, leaving so many ounces for the next comer;” to such an extent were the governors bearded on their own records. (*Cheers.*) Even at the last, when

reinstated in his office by a manœuvre, he calls out to the other three candidates "I congratulate you on your escape, the situation is such as a gentleman cannot hold, there must be many alterations before I shall consent to stop here;" he then shows them the above entry, thus adopting his former conduct even after his re-election, and showing the spirit in which he had acted and intended to act.

Col. Sibthorp rose to a point of order; and recommended an oblivion of the past.

Sir Edward said, that he stated these things to show that the Director's conduct was not levelled at the Physician personally but officially, and also at the Boards. To come to the business more immediately in hand, he had it seems come to Dr. C. in the very Board-room, while in the actual discharge of his duty prescribing as Physician of the month, and after much violence said, "As a finish, I mean to say that I consider Dr. C. as a mean, cowardly, ungentlemanly thing in the shape of a man." The weekly visitor on duty hearing language of this nature, of course reported it; when called before the Board to explain this extraordinary conduct, he broke out again; the display before the Board was so truly outrageous, that it became ludicrous; it was believed by all present that he had made up his mind to go, and had therefore chosen to make a scene as the parting salute (*loud laughter*); it was unanimously agreed even by his own supporters, that he could not possibly continue in office. Again at the Special General Board he broke out in the same manner, flew at the Dean whose gentlemanlike and inoffensive conduct was universally admitted, and conducted himself in such a manner, that it was most singular he should be supported by any gentleman then present. (*Cheers.*) The re-election was partly occasioned by the circumstance of some Governors being there, who had not been present at the past scenes, for if they had, he felt the firmest conviction from his knowledge of some of those gentlemen, that they must have given up his cause as no longer defensible; Dr Beaty for instance had not voted for his re-election; the Board was carried by surprise; 13 new Governors were suddenly introduced from Nottinghamshire and elsewhere; Mr. F. so far from intimating his intention of becoming a candidate, had on the Monday after the limited time, expressed his intention to make himself a Governor; i.e. (*Sir Edward*) had himself told several gentlemen that they need not put themselves to any inconvenience in attending, as the scheme (of which a low rumour had been whispered) was utterly impossible, and that all the candidates seemed highly respectable. On the permitted resignation, he Sir E. B. had suggested that a person should be put in provisionally, until the new Director could be appointed; on Mr. F.'s volunteering to continue during the interval, so void of ill-will was the feeling, that he was allowed to do so, and to retire with credit; this which was acceded to in per-

fect confidence that no advantage would be taken of it, had been converted into a stepping stone for his reinstatement; the result showed the propriety of the suggestion, and had he been dismissed instead of resigning, a Director must have been appointed provisionally as was proposed, since he could not possibly have been allowed to stop in the house.—Whatever had been the causes of this irregular and ill-judged re-election, it had actually taken place, and it became necessary to rescue the institution. The succeeding Weekly Board had certainly no power to rescind the act, but it had under the rules an indisputable power to convene a Special General Board to consider or reconsider that or any other matter whatsoever; the precedent in 1827, quoted by his lordship, set the question of order at rest; the very gentlemen, who now complained, had themselves in 1827 convened a Special Board to revise the act of the General Quarterly Board; that which they did in 1827 to save the pig-yards from being applied to form decent, comfortable, and healthy courts for the patients, might surely have been done on an important occasion like the present (*applause*); the Special Board of that day had not questioned the right of the Weekly Board to convene them, but it had resented the unjustifiable insult offered to the Court of Aldermen, had confirmed the improved system, and set on foot the formation of the beautiful Court yards, and of the spacious gallery erected with such judgement and economy, where they had assembled that day. (*Cheers.*) A late Weekly Board had violated the right established by the rules and by this precedent, and had arbitrarily prevented them from assembling; every reasonable facility should have been allowed, especially as many institutions vest a power of this kind even in the President alone. A succeeding Weekly Board might indeed have annulled the rescinding order, but the President had too much dignity and moderation to carry such a system further; he allowed the triumph, and left the business to this Board for a remedy. (*Loud cheering.*) This day would, he trusted, open a new æra. Differences of opinion must always exist, where an institution is in an improving state; and where a lively interest is felt in its welfare; in an Asylum which required the most active and unceasing vigilance to prevent abuses, it was far from being a misfortune to see two sides of the question. At all events the excitement of public attention would improve the income, and with the help of economy would enable them still further to lower the prices of admission; the Asylum had not yet thoroughly taken root as a County Institution; many would come forward when order was established. But differences were carried too far, when the officers were countenanced in driving Governors away by personal insult; this violated the common understanding among gentlemen, it was not fair warfare, he considered it as the use of poisoned weapons (*cheers*); the real extenuation of Mr. F.'s con-

duct was, that he would not have proceeded to such extremes, except by bad advice, and that he would not have ventured to act as he had done without the expectation of some influential support. (*Loud and vehement cheering.*) The object had been to drive Dr. Charlesworth from his situation, and that object was avowed in the middle of the letter signed "Amicus," and in a neighbouring journal.—As Dr. Cookson had this day called on him by name, he would say that he felt the deepest concern in hearing Dr. Cookson admit that he had written the letter signed "Amicus"; he ought to have been the very last to engage in such a business, to say nothing of the impropriety of anonymous personal attacks on any occasion. The unfounded statements there made must either have forced Dr. Charlesworth into a controversy on collateral points, which would have been made a handle against him; or must have prejudiced the public against him, as he was tied from reply.—When the Director was unanimously reprimanded in November, 1829, it was part of the entered minute, that his past offences should be taken into account in case of future misconduct; this severe warning was added as a condition of forbearance, after highly improper behaviour to the Board itself; it was moved by Dr. Cookson himself, to prevent a course, which it was now evident ought to have been pursued at that time. (*Applause.*) Here he would end, had not great efforts been made, (he was glad to find without success) to represent the affair as a City question; he took this occasion totally to deny that he had ever spoken disrespectfully of the trade of the City, or ever attributed unworthy motives to that body, or ever treated the contract question except as one involving a great public principle generally. (*Applause.*) It would ill become him, holding an honorable office in the Corporation, to forget the respect, kindness, and good will which he had experienced on so many occasions, and which he gratefully returned. His Lordship's injunction not to notice anonymous attacks, had on this point been painful to him, as opinions once taken up are not easily removed.

Dr. Charlesworth rose to explain a mistake which had been made by the Hon. Baronet Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, relative to the Dean of Lincoln. Dr. C. understood the Hon. Baronet that he (Dr. C.) had consulted with the Dean on the subject of calling Mr. Fisher out. Now though the Dean was the first person whom he would feel honored in being allowed to consult upon any other occasion, yet on a subject of this nature he was certainly the very last. The Dean had indeed favored him with a letter expressing his sentiments, and with the Dean's permission he would place it in his Lordship's hands. Dr. C. had however never for an instant entertained the idea of so calling on Mr. Fisher.

[*The letter was read.*]

The Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln—With regard to the letter which the noble Chairman has just read I never thought it would have been preserved—or that it would have been submitted to this meeting; it was written entirely under the influence of conscientious feelings. Dr. Charlesworth having informed me of the treatment he had received from Mr. Fisher, I said to him at once, that in my opinion misconduct of so gross a nature could not too soon be noticed, and that I should therefore feel it my duty to bring it under the consideration of the Weekly Board of Governors which was to take place the next day. After this interview, it occurred to me, that language so insulting, and expressions so violent as Mr. Fisher had made use of, might tend to provoke Dr. Charlesworth to take up the matter personally and to do that which in my opinion he ought not to have done, on any principle whatsoever. I could not help fearing that under the excitement of the moment he might be tempted to go beyond that plain line of duty which according to my ideas he ought to pursue. I therefore could not refrain from writing that note which has just been read, convinced as I was that under the circumstances of the case not even the principles of modern honor and under no circumstances whatsoever the principles of religion, could warrant any such notice of Mr. Fisher's outrageous conduct. (*Hear, hear!*) I hope therefore, that thus situated, your Lordship and this Board will think that in acting as I have done I have acted properly. (*Hear!*) The next question relates to what passed on the 21st of June on the subject of Mr. Fisher's resignation. After Mr. Fisher was on that day permitted to resign, it will be in the recollection of many Governors now present, that it was my decided opinion that though he was suffered to resign, his conduct should be recorded in the books of the Institution, in a way that might in some degree correspond with that strong sense of it which was entertained by the Board;—but Dr. Charlesworth having requested of me as a personal favor that I would not press the recording of any thing in the books that might in any degree injure Mr. Fisher's future prospects—on this ground, and on this ground alone, I gave way, and have now only to regret the ungenerous advantage which has been taken of this indulgence. (*Hear.*) My excellent friend Sir Charles Anderson has adverted to the insult which was levelled at me at the General Board. I hope I am not unforgiving: I trust that I am willing not only to forgive but to forget an injury as soon as any man; and if Mr. Fisher had adopted the line of conduct which I think on every principle he ought to have done; had he retired peaceably and quietly conformably to his tendered resignation, without endeavouring to thrust himself forward again, I am very sure he would never have heard a single syllable from me on the subject. (*Hear.*) Even now I should be very sorry that any particular stress should be laid upon his misconduct towards myself. I could not for a moment wish that it should be dwelt upon at all more strongly than if it had been shown towards any other individual. At the same time it is impossible not to feel such expressions to a certain degree, and the more so as they were not uttered in the heat and excitement of debate—but were read from a written document, showing thereby a premeditated and determined resolution to insult the person against whom they were directed. I am old and inactive and my services likely to be of very little use: and that Mr. Fisher should drive me away from the Board would be a matter

of trifling importance (*cheers*): but the same conduct towards others might have the effect of driving those away whose assistance in upholding this valuable Institution is of far more consequence. It is therefore the principle on which that insult was offered and not its reference to me individually, that is the great grievance to be complained of. If Mr. Fisher is now in this room I wish him particularly to hear me and to contradict me, if he can, when I say, that out of the walls of the Asylum I have never uttered one syllable against him at any public meeting, nor have ever written a single line respecting him in any Newspaper either with or without my name affixed. I may have animadverted at the public Boards of this Institution on what I conceived to be improper in his conduct; and I may have done so strongly; but when a Governor in the due execution of his duty feels himself called upon, on such occasions, to express his disapprobation of the Director's misbehaviour, if the Director is to be at liberty to turn round and insult him, all discipline and subordination appear to me to be lost. And if Mr. Fisher is to be encouraged in conduct of this sort, disposed as he seems to be himself to set at nought all respect for those in authority, and all regard for those gradations which form the happiness and security of any society whatever, I must say I can look forward to little else than the absolute ruin of the Institution. I have been long a friend to this Charity, and hope I shall ever continue so. I shall ever be glad to aid its objects in any way that I can; but if Mr. Fisher is continued in his present situation it will be my own fault if I put myself in his way to receive from him similar insults again. (*Cheers.*) And now I cannot close these observations without tendering to your Lordship my most cordial thanks for the active part which you have taken on this occasion. Munificent as has been the bounty both of your Lordship and of your noble Ancestor to this Institution, and great as have been the personal services you have both rendered it at various times, I am firmly persuaded, they never could have been of more vital importance than now at the present moment, when the best and dearest interests of the Institution are placed in a state of so much peril. (*Great cheering.*) After what I have already said it is hardly necessary for me to add that I most heartily concur in the resolution which my worthy friend Sir C. Anderson has just proposed. —(*Cheers.*)

Colonel Sibthorp—With the utmost deference to your Lordship, and the meeting, I rise to claim for a few moments the attention of the Governors. Much as I deprecate the language which has been used, and particularly to the Very Reverend the Dean, I humbly submit to the consideration of the meeting, the repeated and systematic provocation which the Director has received. Upon a former occasion, charges of a most serious and aggravated nature were formally made by the Physician against the Director; and upon reference to the reports of that meeting, I find it stated that they were “unanimously voted, not proven.” [Here Dr. Charlesworth asked, if the Colonel had said *unanimously*.] Such had been my impression,—I may be wrong; but at all events, they were declared *not to be proven*. Now, my Lord, I ask, what would be the feelings of an honorable mind, writhing under attacks, the injustice of which was so clearly proved? I submit, my lord, that it was more than Englishmen could bear, and may be urged as an excuse for the intemperate language which Mr. Fisher has used. Besides, my lord, the illegality of your proceedings, —they are unjust and cruel, and contrary to the well-known axiom of

law, so beneficially practised in this country, and which is recognized in all criminal courts; that "a man cannot twice be tried on the same charge." With great deference, surely this is the commencement *de novo* of proceedings which I, for one, hoped had been buried in oblivion. Besides, my lord, the indirect attacks which Mr. Fisher has been subject to, evince a spirit of persecution, the constant recurrence of which it is hard to bear. My opinion, therefore, my lord, would be, to advise conciliation,—let the past be forgotten,—let both parties concede a little, and together unite in devising and carrying into effect every measure which may benefit the Institution. (*Cheers.*)

Dr. Charlesworth—My Lord, as Colonel Sibthorp has introduced the subject of the charges which on a former occasion I found necessary to bring forward with regard to Mr. Fisher, I will beg to be allowed to state to the meeting what those charges were.

1. The Director has been in the constant habit of absenting himself from the house, to the neglect of the Establishment.
2. He has been repeatedly absent from the house all night without leave, contrary to the Rule.
3. He has been in the habit of entertaining company in the house, at the charge of the Institution.
4. He has allowed great waste to be committed in the household, so as to produce an extraordinary increase upon the Quarterly expenditure.
5. He distinctly refused to obey an order of the Board for reading portions of the Holy Scriptures to convalescent Patients on the Sunday, and assigned as his reason, in the face of the Board, that he had not the gift of grace.
6. He has on various occasions openly declared to the Boards, that he would not obey their orders with respect to showing the Institution.
7. He has directly disobeyed the orders of the Board by confining Patients, and by refusing to allow the Institution to be seen, without making the required entries.
8. He has been convicted of making a false entry in his Journal, to evade a strong detected instance.
9. He has particularly neglected the state of the instruments of restraint, although his attention had been expressly called thereto by an order of the Board.
10. He positively refused on the 1st of May, 1829, to state to the Physician of the month, his reason for confining a Female patient in a strait waistcoat, in preference to using a milder mode of restraint.
11. His demeanour and language to the Boards, have been habitually disrespectful and in a tone of defiance; and he continues to show on all occasions, a general indisposition to co-operate with the Boards in the management of the Institution, notwithstanding repeated cautions.

The Colonel will find on reference to the minute book that the resolution alluded to, of which the Colonel himself was the mover, was worded thus "That the charges collectively were not proved satisfactorily." Had the charges been put to the vote *seriatim*, and not in the mass, instead of being decided to be not proved, they must have been carried; most of them are grounded on records of the Institution, and were not even denied. The Colonel also made an oversight in stating that the resolution passed unanimously. The minute book would shew the contrary; there was a large minority.

Col. Sibthorp re-called the word "unanimously."

Mr. Hitchins, after some pause, rose and addressed the chair, observing, that their removal from the Asylum to the Court, where they had now assembled was quite in keeping with their mode of proceeding. His Lordship sat on the Judge's bench. Counsel were employed; but, unlike other causes *Dr. Charlesworth*, the prosecutor and persecutor, was allowed to be heard. The trial was a mock one, for it would be tried by a *packed Jury*. (*Hisses.*) Really, my Lord, this is what I expected; but if these *GEES*, in the shape of new Governors, think that they are about to put me down, I will just observe that the

more they attempt it the less they will succeed. I am made of different material, and therefore give them due notice.

Sir F. Bromhead—I beg gentlemen you will hear Mr. Hitchins; disapprove in silence, applaud as loudly as you please.

Mr. Hitchins—Really it is most *honorable* to this Board that they must be recommended and told *how* to behave themselves as gentlemen. (*Hear, hear.*) Sir Charles Anderson has humourously described certain proceedings in the language of one John Evans, as running the fox to the ground. I believe Sir Charles is right; but what fox? Why Mr. Fisher; and how,—not as sportsmen, not by a fair chase, but by a fresh pack of hounds; the old ones not being quick enough, and nearly worn out. (*Hisses.*) The feathered tribe again, my Lord. (*Laughter.*) I am aware that your Lordship is in possession of the fact, that the proceedings of this day are looked forward to with great interest,—that considerable excitation exists, a powerful sensation is felt, and that the result is awaited with the most intense anxiety. The public is a body not to be trifled with,—not to be treated with indifference or contempt. Let *caution* mark your proceedings, *justice* your measures. (*Hear.*) The public has stated, whether true or not it is not for me to say, that the proceedings of the Board have been guided more by personal pique, private animosity, and personal gratification, than by a desire to promote the interest of the Institution. That partizanship has been and is the ruling feeling; and I am bound to tell your Lordship that the public say that this supposition is strengthened by your having deviated from all regularity, and from all precedent; by stepping out of the path of duty which belongs to your Lordship, and advertising your name to convene a meeting of the Governors. (*Hear.*) The voice of truth does not always reach the ear of nobility; I am accustomed to speak it without qualification, and without regarding title; I am bound to tell your Lordship, high as you have stood, unassailable as your Lordship has hitherto been, this proceeding has struck the first dart. Your Lordship has descended from an eminence on which you stood, and lowered yourself in the public eye and public estimation. (*Cries of "Order" & "Chair."*) I know truth is unpalatable, but I shall speak it however it may give pain. The painter and the poet have both drawn *Justice blind-fold*, but only so when holding the scale, and sitting upon her seat; but Prejudice is represented as *stone-blind*; unable to perceive the least glimmer of light or of reason. I trust we shall not come under the latter description, but yet I fear it; for, constituted as the present meeting is, it matters not what argument is adduced,—what reasoning is advanced; the mind is made up; no power of eloquence can dissuade; they will not listen to "the voice of the charmer, charm he never so wisely." (*Hear, hear.*) Large effects are sometimes produced by small causes. I will trace the causes which have produced the effects which we all deplore, and which has induced the present meeting; but as the great majority present are unacquainted with the real facts, I shall lay them before them,—not that I anticipate any but one result. They probably are not aware that this Institution is greatly indebted to Mr. Fisher for several suggestions for building; and that the plan which was by him proposed was agreed upon by two separate Boards. On the 7th of April, 1824, at a Quarterly Meeting, the following appears upon the books:—

"Some plans having been submitted to this Board,---resolved, that the plan submitted by Mr. Fisher is hereby approved of; and that it be recommended to be carried into effect as soon as the funds of this Institution will admit of."

Here then commenced the cause of the irritation; Dr. Charles-

worth's uneasy spirit would not brook this, and other plans were substituted ; but at another Board (April 2, 1827,) it was ordered,—

“That Mr. Wilson do make plans and estimates upon the basis of Mr. Fisher's plan, as agreed on by a large majority of Governors on the 7th April, 1824.

And on the 9th—

“That a Special General Meeting be called, to take the matters into consideration, and to determine on the propriety of carrying into effect resolutions made at two former Quarterly Boards, upon a plan proposed by Dr. Hett, and IMPROVED upon by Mr. Fisher.”

But on the 28th of April, in the same year, the plan of Mr. Fisher, which had been approved by two several Boards, and which I understand was not to cost 400*l.*, was done away with, and a plan of Dr. Charlesworth's was not only agreed upon, but a committee actually appointed to carry it into effect, at an expense of 1500*l.*, and not to exceed more. (*Hear, hear.*) From this I date the first scattering the seeds of bickering ; for not only do I see it as offensive to Mr. Fisher, but I trace in it strong evidences of insult to the Committee, who approved of his plan. Indirect insult is often more offensive than direct, as indirect injury is often more certain and fatal in its consequences than direct ; and such do I fearlessly state has been the conduct towards Mr. Fisher. It is admitted generally, that the most important officer of the establishment is the Director. On him rests an almost awful responsibility,—on him is fixed the public eye,—to him do the Governors look for a proper governance of the Institution,—from him do the patients receive either comfort or added misery, good or ill treatment. Surely, then, he ought to be invested with discretionary power ; and not to be subject to the inquisitorial and capricious power of the Physicians. He is daily with the patients, he knows the progress of their disease ; and Mr. Fisher's experience, and universally acknowledged kind treatment of them, is not only a sufficient guarantee for that discretion of which I am speaking, but shows its importance and value. But how is he treated ? The Board on the 16th Feb. 1829, resolved,—

“That the use of the straight waistcoat be discontinued, except under the special *written* order of the Physician.”

Not only is this resolution intended to degrade Mr. Fisher in his own estimation, and that of the servants of the Asylum ; but I will ask your Lordship, if it is not the climax of absurdity,—if it can be equalled, much less excelled, in folly ? Your Lordship has stated a circumstance, the recurrence of which Heaven avert, and yet it may ; I allude to Dr. Cookson being called in to attend your Lordship. (*Hear, hear.*) Still, my Lord, he may, if not attending you, be from Lincoln, Dr. Beatty the same, and Dr. Charlesworth also. Your Lordship is not so unacquainted with human nature as not to know that man in his full senses has moments of irritation, in which he forgets what is due to himself and to society ; and examples, unfortunately, are not wanting where men by sudden bursts of passion have committed those offences for which they have only been able to atone upon the scaffold. (*Hear.*) If thus man cannot be controuled while in the possession of reason, how much more difficult the unfortunate maniac. Sudden paroxysms may come upon him, which will endanger the life of not only his fellow in affliction, but those of the Keeper and the Director : still he cannot place upon a patient a strait-waistcoat, the best mode of

duct was, that he would not have proceeded to such extremes, except by bad advice, and that he would not have ventured to act as he had done without the expectation of some influential support. (*Loud and vehement cheering.*) The object had been to drive Dr. Charlesworth from his situation, and that object was avowed in the middle of the letter signed “Amicus,” and in a neighbouring journal.—As Dr. Cookson had this day called on him by name, he would say that he felt the deepest concern in hearing Dr. Cookson admit that he had written the letter signed “Amicus”; he ought to have been the very last to engage in such a business, to say nothing of the impropriety of anonymous personal attacks on any occasion. The unfounded statements there made must either have forced Dr. Charlesworth into a controversy on collateral points, which would have been made a handle against him; or must have prejudiced the public against him, as he was tied from reply.—When the Director was unanimously reprimanded in November, 1829, it was part of the entered minute, that his past offences should be taken into account in case of future misconduct; this severe warning was added as a condition of forbearance, after highly improper behaviour to the Board itself; it was moved by Dr. Cookson himself, to prevent a course, which it was now evident ought to have been pursued at that time. (*Applause.*) Here he would end, had not great efforts been made, (he was glad to find without success) to represent the affair as a City question; he took this occasion totally to deny that he had ever spoken disrespectfully of the trade of the City, or ever attributed unworthy motives to that body, or ever treated the contract question except as one involving a great public principle generally. (*Applause.*) It would ill become him, holding an honorable office in the Corporation, to forget the respect, kindness, and good will which he had experienced on so many occasions, and which he gratefully returned. His Lordship’s injunction not to notice anonymous attacks, had on this point been painful to him, as opinions once taken up are not easily removed.

Dr. Charlesworth rose to explain a mistake which had been made by the Hon. Baronet Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, relative to the Dean of Lincoln. Dr. C. understood the Hon. Baronet that he (Dr. C.) had consulted with the Dean on the subject of calling Mr. Fisher out. Now though the Dean was the first person whom he would feel honored in being allowed to consult upon any other occasion, yet on a subject of this nature he was certainly the very last. The Dean had indeed favored him with a letter expressing his sentiments, and with the Dean’s permission he would place it in his Lordship’s hands. Dr. C. had however never for an instant entertained the idea of so calling on Mr. Fisher.

[*The letter was read.*]

The Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln—With regard to the letter which the noble Chairman has just read I never thought it would have been preserved—or that it would have been submitted to this meeting; it was written entirely under the influence of conscientious feelings. Dr. Charlesworth having informed me of the treatment he had received from Mr. Fisher, I said to him at once, that in my opinion misconduct of so gross a nature could not too soon be noticed, and that I should therefore feel it my duty to bring it under the consideration of the Weekly Board of Governors which was to take place the next day. After this interview, it occurred to me, that language so insulting, and expressions so violent as Mr. Fisher had made use of, might tend to provoke Dr. Charlesworth to take up the matter personally and to do that which in my opinion he ought not to have done, on any principle whatsoever. I could not help fearing that under the excitement of the moment he might be tempted to go beyond that plain line of duty which according to my ideas he ought to pursue. I therefore could not refrain from writing that note which has just been read, convinced as I was that under the circumstances of the case not even the principles of modern honor and under no circumstances whatsoever the principles of religion, could warrant any such notice of Mr. Fisher's outrageous conduct. (*Hear, hear!*) I hope therefore, that thus situated, your Lordship and this Board will think that in acting as I have done I have acted properly. (*Hear!*) The next question relates to what passed on the 21st of June on the subject of Mr. Fisher's resignation. After Mr. Fisher was on that day permitted to resign, it will be in the recollection of many Governors now present, that it was my decided opinion that though he was suffered to resign, his conduct should be recorded in the books of the Institution, in a way that might in some degree correspond with that strong sense of it which was entertained by the Board;—but Dr. Charlesworth having requested of me as a personal favor that I would not press the recording of any thing in the books that might in any degree injure Mr. Fisher's future prospects—on this ground, and on this ground alone, I gave way, and have now only to regret the ungenerous advantage which has been taken of this indulgence. (*Hear.*) My excellent friend Sir Charles Anderson has adverted to the insult which was levelled at me at the General Board. I hope I am not unforgiving: I trust that I am willing not only to forgive but to forget an injury as soon as any man; and if Mr. Fisher had adopted the line of conduct which I think on every principle he ought to have done; had he retired peaceably and quietly conformably to his tendered resignation, without endeavouring to thrust himself forward again, I am very sure he would never have heard a single syllable from me on the subject. (*Hear.*) Even now I should be very sorry that any particular stress should be laid upon his misconduct towards myself. I could not for a moment wish that it should be dwelt upon at all more strongly than if it had been shown towards any other individual. At the same time it is impossible not to feel such expressions to a certain degree, and the more so as they were not uttered in the heat and excitement of debate—but were read from a written document, showing thereby a premeditated and determined resolution to insult the person against whom they were directed. I am old and inactive and my services likely to be of very little use: and that Mr. Fisher should drive me away from the Board would be a matter

election, misconducted himself? Has he shown any incompetency? Do not your reports, weekly made, record the excellent management of the Institution, and proclaim his qualification? This is the man you will throw out—this is the man you will remove—this is the mode by which you will ruin the Institution. To prevent these fatal and injurious consequences, in what language shall I speak? I fear it is useless for the Institution. I plead not for Mr. Fisher; he, it is true, is an injured man; but his removal will not only do him a wrong, but the Asylum. Bury in oblivion what is past. Blot out of remembrance the ebullition of feeling which has perpetuated and produced such irritation. Arrest the hand of vengeance, and obey the mandates of justice.

~~~~~ If he had been as you,  
And you as he, you would have *slipt* like him;  
But he, like you, would not have been so *stern*.

*Dr. Charlesworth* felt called upon to address the meeting from the repeated allusions to his name made by the last speaker. It was not his wish to have gone back to the long course of misconduct pursued by Mr. Fisher; but as the charges which he had been under the necessity of bringing forward, had been mentioned, he must be excused for referring to them. They had been supported by all the Governors who had for the preceding two years been most in the habit of attending the Weekly Boards and witnessing Mr. Fisher's conduct. Many of them had been borne out by what had transpired even in the course of the present meeting. The Director had himself been under the necessity of admitting almost every one of them at the time, as they were separately read; and his friends had in consequence been obliged to move that they should be voted upon collectively. He would not detain the meeting by going through the whole of them; it would be sufficient to mention a few. His positive refusal to read Scripture on Sundays, which still continued, and the indecent terms in which it was conveyed, were not denied. The circumstance of his giving dinner parties at the charge of the Charity, was proved by the very justification attempted; he replied "that he was proud to say Governors did him the honor to dine with him," adding what fully prevented any mistake as to the source from which the entertainments were provided, "that the Institution did not suffer thereby, as he eat more at his friends' houses than they eat at the Institution." Surely it was proper that such a system should be placed under some regulation; and accordingly the following order had been since made,

That no stranger do pass a night in the house, or be entertained at the charge of this Institution, without an entry of the fact, and the reason thereof, in the Director's Journal.

Now it will be observed that in this regulation there is no prohibition against entertaining a friend: it is only required, that the Governors shall know the extent to which this expenditure of the Patients' payments is carried, in order to its con-



troul in the event of excess. A much stricter rule had been made at the Nottingham Asylum, which he would read :—

That no visitant or stranger of any description be maintained or lodged in this Asylum, without the consent of two members of the house-Committee, delivered in writing, and specifying the time limited for the continuance of such visitant.

Another ground of complaint—

*Mr. Hitchins* observed, that *Dr. Charlesworth* had no right to go into matters which had already been set at rest, and desired he might be stopped.

*The Chairman* replied, that as *Mr. Hitchins* had himself brought forward the subject of the charges, *Dr. Charlesworth* had the right of reply.

*Dr. Charlesworth* proceeded to observe that another ground of complaint against the Director, had been the great waste he had permitted in the household expenditure.

*Mr. Edward Fowler*, denied the fact.

*Dr. Charlesworth* replied, that the facts stood recorded upon the minutes of the Boards; and were sustained by *Mr. Fisher's* own most extraordinary declaration, when complaining of some misconduct of the servants, before one of the Weekly Boards, “that the keepers were guttling and guzzling all day long, eating five meals a day; and getting so drunk that he was obliged to put them into strait-waistcoats.” *Mr. Fisher* was he believed present, and might contradict him if misquoted.—The date of the minute in 1824, adduced by his Lordship as respected the Plans for the additional buildings, at once disproved the imputation of motives by *Mr. Hitchins*. The Plans of *Dr. C.* had been adopted by a great majority of the Governors, and had since been approved by the highest professional authorities. There was one question raised on the present occasion, which he could not pass over without injustice to the interests of this and every other Asylum; he meant the extreme difficulty of procuring a person qualified for the office of Director. The Asylums of this kingdom would indeed be in a melancholy condition if the choice of the Governors was so limited, that they must appoint a person whom they otherwise disapproved, unless they could procure one who had been previously employed in another Asylum. Fortunately this was very far from being the case. Any regular surgeon of good ability, and good temper, was fully qualified for the situation. The medical treatment in these cases was very little beyond an attention to the general health; and at Lincoln the Director had the assistance of no fewer than 3 Physicians. He would go so far as to give the preference to a medical person who had never been engaged in another Asylum; there were few he was proud to say in which the system was superior to that at Lincoln, and very many indeed were far from being proper objects of imitation. The abuses in some, and in some of great name, had been of the most revolting character; and such as he trusted



would never find their way to Lincoln.--There was a subject which the Editor of the Newark Times had introduced, at which he would confess he had been astonished; that was the subject of anonymous writing. How Mr. Hitchens, whose journal literally teemed with anonymous letters in every page—letters directed against Dr. Charlesworth and his friends, and persisted in for a series of months, all on one side of the question—how Mr. H. could possibly under such circumstances stand forward as a reprover of anonymous writing, he was utterly at a loss to understand. In the former correspondence to which Mr. H. had alluded, Dr. C. and his friends had been in a similar manner anonymously assailed with every possible misrepresentation; until at length they were accused of having sacrificed a human life; and because Dr. C. had indignantly rebutted this slanderous charge, was it to be deemed a crime that he should defend himself—or that while his enemies stood concealed, shooting their arrows from behind trees, he should refuse to throw down his own name to be a butt for such assailants. Dr. C. had never written one syllable except in reply; and he had never in his life anonymously attacked any individual whatsoever.

*Richard Paddison, Esq., of Louth*, addressed Lord Yarborough (the Chairman) to the following effect:—My Lord, in the important crisis which now seems almost to threaten with destruction the best interests, and I may say the very existence, of this excellent public Institution, I think no apology necessary for the attempt I am about to make to offer my reasons in support of the motion now under discussion, and to shew that I shall not vote for it merely because others may have voted for it before me, according to the insinuation of a previous speaker (Mr. Hitchens.) A great deal has been said, my Lord, about party-spirit, and to affect to deny that party-spirit does exist and prevail to a very great extent, would be folly in the extreme; for, have we not heard the motives of your Lordship assailed by no very secret insinuations, because you have thought proper to honour this meeting with your presence, in obedience, no doubt, as your Lordship stated, to your sense of duty to this institution, of which you have been a munificent benefactor and an efficient protector, and to which you will, I am sure, always think yourself bound to extend your protection in the hour of danger.

Speaking of the necessary influence of high character, the speaker said:—

As if, in fact, rank and character, merely because they attract and carry along with them weight and influence, made it incumbent upon your Lordship to keep back, to withhold your presence from these meetings, instead of forming the very strongest reason why you should be present when your presence is most required and when the influence of your character can be exercised with the very best effect and for the very best of purposes! (Applause.) Harmless, however, and ineffectual as these shafts of malignant slander, which have been flying about so thickly and of which certain individuals seem to have whole quivers full—(a laugh)—may be towards your Lordship, still they are intended to wound every other person whose opinions and conduct may happen to coincide with those of your Lordship this day, and, as I may possibly be one of those unfortunate individuals, (for, these shafts are shot at random and in the dark, and may therefore strike any one) and, at all events, as I am as great a stranger to these meetings as I am to your Lordship, I will take the liberty of stating, with reference to myself, that so far from disclaiming this party-spirit, I will boldly avow that I have come here under its influence (hear) nay, I will confess that, had it not been for this party-spirit, I should not, in all probability, have been a Governor of this institution at the present moment (hear, hear) although I might have become so at some future period. I notice the sense



in which this confession is taken by those who cry hear, hear ; let me not, however, be mistaken ; let not this admission be misinterpreted to mean that I come here in obedience to any influence, even the most remote, either direct or indirect, of your Lordship, or with any personal feeling of hostility or of friendship towards either Dr. Charlesworth or Mr. Fisher. But, I will venture to assert, that every individual here present is more or less under the influence of party-spirit of one kind or another—for, let it be borne in mind that the existence of one party necessarily presupposes the existence of another party, its opponent ; and as to the spirit which actuates the individuals composing each, why, be it observed, that if there are evil spirits, there are also good ones, too ! (Applause.) It is in a spirit of this latter description, my Lord, that I claim a participation, and, in vindication of my claim, let me ask who are the parties to the present contest ? who are they ? not, as has been artfully asserted, Dr. Charlesworth on the one hand, and Mr. Fisher on the other ; no, we are not to be duped by an artifice like this (applause) the real parties are, a small and insignificant, but artful and intriguing faction (for, I cannot stop to make exceptions of individuals, when speaking of bodies of men) on the one hand, and not only a vast majority of the Governors of this institution, but the whole county of Lincoln, on the other. Yes, my Lord, I assert that the result of this day's proceedings is not only of interest, but is of vital importance to the whole county of Lincoln—and, one would think that it is so to the county of Nottingham, too, seeing that our meeting is graced by the presence of some emissaries from that neighbouring district. (Laughter.) However, let me ask, must not the preservation of the order, the discipline, the well-being, the existence, of this institution, be an object of vital importance to the county of Lincoln, of which that Institution itself forms one of the chief glories and the boast ? Some individuals there are so entirely wrapt up in self, so utterly incapable of extending their views to the contemplation of their neighbour's good, who suffer such a torpid insensibility to creep over and to paralyse their feelings, that to their understandings, the words public spirit, convey no meaning, and to their mind's eye, public institutions present no glory and no peculiar claims to attention.

The speaker then deprecated mere party men ; and took a view of the nature of the charity, and the objects of relief.

Influenced by these feelings, long before I became a governor of this Institution,—of all the proceedings relative to which, however I have been an attentive observer—I could not but feel pain when I saw its discipline endangered by the odious and insolent spirit of insubordination lately manifested by the Director, and when I witnessed, too, the disunion which has been rapidly spreading amongst the Governors themselves, and which, unless speedily and decisively checked by the result of the proceedings of this day, will, undoubtedly, terminate in consequences most disastrous to the welfare of the Asylum. Stranger as I am and must be to any private personal feeling in favour of Dr. Charlesworth, still I cannot be insensible to his many and signal merits as one of the superior officers of this institution ; I know that he has been the most ardent and active promoter of all those enlightened improvements with regard to the structure of the building itself, with regard to the discipline and classification of the patients, with regard to the prevention of abuses by affording to the public every opportunity (under proper regulations) of access within these walls, all which improvements together are appropriately called the NEW system. I know that the Doctor's zeal and assiduity and success in this cause have earned him the high praise (but not less high than just) of Sir Andrew Halliday ; I know that Dr. C. has been a most vigilant watcher over the funds of this institution, and the principal supporter of several most excellent rules calculated to preserve those funds from misapplication. In all these respects, Dr. C.'s merits appear to me to be beyond all praise, and, upon one point in particular, I will trouble the meeting with a few observations. We have all of us either heard or read of the horrible atrocities of the York and Bethlehem institutions ; of the shocking secrets that were revealed by the investigation into the state and management of the York institution, especially before a Parliamentary Committee, in the year 1815. A mere allusion to those abominations is enough ; they are notorious to the whole world ; the recital of them has made the blood curdle in the veins of millions ; and, if I particularise the case of Elizabeth West, a pauper lunatic, who, in the year 1797, was discharged from the York Asylum and restored to her parish in a state of pregnancy by the head keeper, Backhouse, himself ; I do so, not because I think that black crime the blackest in the dark catalogue, but because the history



of that ill-treated female is connected with my own place of residence, Louth, whose parish books record against Backhouse proof of the damning fact. Here, my Lord, was an enormous outrage which literally beggars description; and yet, this outrage, together with scores of others, differing only in circumstances, but not inferior in guilt, was perpetrated in the bosom of an Asylum which could boast of being supported by Governors of the very highest character; who, however, unfortunately, reposed too blind a confidence in the mere officers and servants of the Institution; and thus, notwithstanding they made their own periodical inspections, not only left the miserable patients exposed to the most wanton outrages, the most loathsome neglect, the most cruel inflictions, but were, in fact, so completely ignorant of the very existence of these abuses, so completely deceived with regard to the real character of the head keeper himself, that they actually voted to this man a piece of plate, as a testimonial of his MERITS, when he retired from the Asylum, after having served it for 26 years. (Hear, hear.) Why, my Lord, a warning like this, which speaks with a voice of thunder against the supine folly of those who would entrust the welfare of the patients and of the institutions to its servants and Governors only, ought not to be thrown away upon any man; and accordingly, Dr. Charlesworth, thinking like all sensible men, that prevention is better than punishment, that to obviate the very possibility of abuse is better than to correct them after detection, which, in such a case, is never easy, and always comes too late. The Doctor, I say, has, as we all know, been constantly directing the energies of a mind, which combines both science and skill, with the most enthusiastic benevolence, to effect the introduction, into this Asylum, of such rules as might render a repetition of those horrors impracticable here,—and the only means effectual for that purpose, are to be found in the regulations which admit the public eye within the walls of the Asylum. Hear the emphatic language made use of upon this subject, by Mr. Nicolls, in his letter to Mr. Higgins, respecting the abuses in the York Asylum.—“Instituted” says he, “as this Asylum was, by persons of the very first character, conducted, too, by those who founded it, and their no less respectable successors, still nothing less than the most vigilant attention of the public—nay, its forcible irruption into the very heart of the fabric, could rectify the abuses which existed there.” (Hear, hear.) And, indeed, to any person who has the slightest knowledge of human nature, or has had the least experience in the world, it must be perfectly obvious that nothing can be more easy than for a Director, by courting some Governors and insulting others, to make inspection by the Governors only, what the fatal experience of so many places has shewn it to be, a mere mockery, the shadow of a shade! And how can it be expected to be otherwise, where, as in some cases, the Director and the Governors are on a footing of the closest intimacy, dining at each other’s tables, drinking their comfortable glass together, as Mr. Hitchens expresses it, and indulging in all the familiarities which such an intercourse engenders. But, the searching eye and the tell-tale tongue of the public cannot be evaded. I cannot discuss this subject so fully my Lord, as I should wish; I will therefore observe, that the fifth Report of this Institution, bearing the signature of the Precentor, a document which, though very brief, is very able, and which ought to be in the possession of every Governor, contains some admirable sentiments upon the subject; and that for those regulations, which must make every Governor who can properly appreciate them, proud of the institution to which he belongs, we, or rather the public, are indebted principally to Dr. Charlesworth, who may be called the very eye of the institution itself, and as such, the light of the whole body. (Applause.) Well, it may be observed, this is high praise indeed; but, if the merits of Dr. C. be so great and so notorious, it seems a strange thing that he should have fallen into ill favour with any body of Governors, and especially of Governors resident in Lincoln, the very seat of the government; (a laugh) and where, of course, the Doctor’s merits, if they have any existence, must be known and appreciated! How can you account for such a surprising thing as this. Surely every Governor of this institution must be as anxious for its welfare as Dr. C. himself can be! Nay, no person would become a Governor at all, except from the most disinterested and charitable principles. Ah, my Lord, this is a delicate subject to handle. Human nature is her own seducer. Men are as prone to deceive themselves, as they are anxious to deceive others. I have heard or read, indeed of a man who used to boast of his honor in somewhat the following strain—“My repute with my neighbours is so good—my character for honor stands so high in the world, that I feel myself to be incapable of any mean or dirty action—except indeed it be something damnably to my own advantage.” (Loud laughter.) All men are not so free in their confessions as this vain but candid boaster was; but, if they were, if they knew themselves and would but speak out, many, at least, could give no better an account of



their charity than this man did of his honor; for many who speak only of charity with their lips, speak nothing but selfishness by their actions; their charity not only begins, but it centres and ends at home, too; under the pretext of supporting and forwarding the ends of charity, they seek only the opportunities of jobbing, and for every shilling expended in the prostituted name of charity, expect a return of five shillings through the sordid channel of trade. (Hear, hear.) This is no personality, my Lord. Individuals of this description are to be found in every society holding a fund of the public money in its hands; where the carcass is, there are the eagles gathered together; and, for any person to pretend that no such individuals are to be found amongst the good citizens of Lincoln, is to pretend that those citizens are one and all, exempt from the foibles of humanity. I know that there must be such individuals here as well as elsewhere, and I also know that such individuals will naturally have honored, and will naturally continue to honor, Dr. Charlesworth, with an uncommon portion of their very heartiest dislike; for to their selfishness and rapacious cupidity he has proved a most successful foil. I hold in my hand, my Lord, a copy of the consolidated series of the regulations of this society. One of those regulations is in the following words—

“That no Governors do supply this house with any article to be consumed therein, by contract or otherwise.

Here, my Lord, in this little rule, which may truly be called a “golden rule,” here,—in this little rule, of which Dr. Charlesworth has been the principal supporter, though he was not, probably, the formal introducer of it—here, my Lord, I repeat, in this little rule, I can read whole volumes in explanation of the origin and character of no inconsiderable portion of the hostility with which Dr. C. has been assailed in this contest. This little rule alone, would, no doubt, make the breasts of numbers the ready recipients of vindictive feelings against Dr. Charlesworth, and ready partizans in any quarrel, no matter what, that could be raised against him, no matter by whom. (Loud applause.) The other merits of Dr. Charlesworth might, perhaps, have been forgiven; but, his merit as the principal supporter of this rule, which, for the good of the patients themselves, imposes a check upon the selfishness of some governors, can neither be forgotten nor forgiven; though certainly, the rule is favourable to the interests of trade generally, because it prevents a monopoly of the supply for the institution by a few houses only. Well, but it will be observed, it is not amongst Governors only, whether residing in the city or in the county at large, that Dr. Charlesworth has fallen into ill favor; persons who are no governors at all think him in the wrong in this case. It may be so;—and here, my Lord, I cannot refrain from blaming, in some degree, the supineness and the negligence of Dr. Charlesworth and his friends in not having answered, one by one, every attack that has been made upon them; I cannot but blame the silence they have preserved under those attacks; I know that silence was expressive of contempt, but they ought to have borne in mind that silence is not always ascribed by persons, at least, at a distance, and unacquainted with the real merits of the case, to contempt, but sometimes to the want of a good cause. (Hear, hear.) I admit that contempt was the proper feeling to be entertained towards those attacks and the authors of them, but Dr. C. and his friends ought to have borne in mind that, according to the maxim of a very wise man, the lower and the weaker faction being the firmer in conjunction from despair, a few that are stiff and obstinate sometimes tire out and prove an overmatch for greater numbers that are more powerful. This, however, is but a negative cause. The grand and active doer of mischief, the grand and the active source of a very considerable portion of the ill feeling and erroneous thinking that prevail against Dr. Charlesworth, in this case, has been the press, or, at least, that portion of it which is under the controul of Mr. Editor Hitchins;—yes, my Lord, upon the misrepresentations, the exaggerations, the omissions of the press—of that instrument which is so powerful, whether for good or for bad purposes, and which its greatest flatterer has called with such indiscriminate praise “the best possible public instructor,”—upon that guilty instrument (guilty, I mean, in this instance) I charge whole hosts of the calumny and ill will which Dr. Charlesworth has had to encounter.—(Loud applause).—And, not merely the direct power of the press has been employed on this occasion: but, all the disgusting trickery, and all the disgusting quackery of “the best possible public instructor,” have been put under requisition and brought into play in the course of this contest. One of the great arts of Mr. Hitchins, has been to make the public believe that he had a vast number of correspondents upon this subject; that great numbers of persons, burning with zeal for the welfare of the Asylum, were ready to flock to, and range themselves under, the broad-sheeted banner of Mr. Editor Hitchins. (Great laughter.) And, mark the means which he has resorted to for the accomplish-



ment of this end, to palm this delusion upon the public mind: mark one of his tricks which I will detail to you, and which, when you have heard it, will, I think, convince you that Mr. Editor Hitchens is no unworthy rival of even Harlequin himself. In this case, too, he shall be his own detector; his folly, or vanity, shall be its own scourge. I hold in my hand the Newark Times, of the 23rd of June last, containing a report of the proceedings of the meeting of the 21st. From that report, it appears that Sir Edward Ffrench Bromhead had been severely censuring the libellous attacks made upon Governors, through the medium of the press. Mr. Hitchens, in reply, (mark the workings of a guilty conscience,) says "I know to whom the Honorable Baronet alludes: he alludes to me." (A laugh.) Sir Edward, with all the frankness and all the un-u-pecting sincerity in the world, immediately observes "I don't say you were the author; I don't believe you were the author; it was a correspondent." And here comes Mr. Harlequin upon the stage; for, Mr. Hitchens, jumping up from behind the mound where he had been lying hid, and casting aside the mantle under which he had crept to conceal himself from the observation of Sir Edward Bromhead, and every one else, instantly comes forward and exclaims 'I alone am responsible; if it be any satisfaction, I will confess that I am the author;' 'me, me,' says he—'adsum qui teci (tumultuous laughter) in me convertite telum, O Rutuli, mea fraus omnis;' (continued bursts of laughter) that is to say, if I may be allowed to translate in an assembly like this, "I am the impostor; it is all a piece of cheaterly of my own." (continued laughter) and yet Mr. Hitchens, according to his own report, goes on to exclaim, with the coolest assurance and the most amusing and laughable naivete in the world; "I never fight behind a mound; I never shield myself under another's mantle," (bursts of laughter.) However, my Lord, laughable as is this instance of the quackery of "the best possible public instructor," still (at least with regard to the form of the trick) it is perfectly harmless and inoffensive. But not quite so harmless the character of the other charges which I have to prefer against the press of Mr. Hitchens. In my humble opinion, one of the first duties, nay almost the only duty, of the Editor of a newspaper, is to instruct the public mind by laying fully and fairly before it an impartial report of every thing that is said on both sides, or on all sides, of any and of every question that comes under public discussion. Unless an Editor perform this duty, instead of being a 'best possible instructor,' he becomes the worst possible misleader and deceiver of the public mind, (loud applause) for there is no medium. Now then, let us see how this duty has been performed by Mr. Hitchens, whom, indeed, one could hardly expect to perform the duty well, seeing that he is a partizan in the present contest; however, he shall be judged by his actions. The Newark Times has, as we all know, been made the vehicle of denouncing Dr. Charlesworth, in all manner of ways, upon a charge of having anonymously, falsely, and maliciously accused Mr. Fisher of murder. A great deal has already been said about this charge to day, but I will advert to the facts again; for a mere statement of the facts proves not only that Dr. Charlesworth did not, in the anonymous letter alluded to, accuse either Mr. Fisher or any one else of murder, but that Dr. Charlesworth, instead of being the accuser, was the accused, instead of making a wanton attack upon Mr. Fisher, was actually repelling an anonymous, a false, and a malicious attack made upon himself. The facts have been stated by previous speakers. William Scrivenger, a lunatic, was, it seems, found dead in his bed, somewhere in the beginning of the year 1829, having been strangled in the night by the strait waistcoat; this death led to some modifications, introduced by Dr. Charlesworth, in the use of that species of restraint. Here, then, was the evil, and here was the remedy; here was the old system, and here was the new. Well—a writer in the Lincoln Herald, calling himself "A straight forward man," in a letter dated 28th August, 1829, thus alludes to this death, and to the new system. "At a time, Mr. Editor, long since gone by, when the Asylum was under a sane management, certain instruments of restraint were allowed the nurses and keepers, for immediate use, when necessary, in consideration of their own safety, and of the patients under their care—but now under the present management every instrument is scrupulously taken from them and brilliantly arranged in a single apartment—in consequence of which, when patients are suddenly seized with paroxysms of violence and fury, the keeper has to pass through and unlock and lock again several doors, &c. Such management must be readily appreciated by the most ignorant, but at the Lincoln Asylum, this evil, like others, is left to find its own remedy, and however lamentable to contemplate, it is probable that another life will be sacrificed to an obstinate spirit of blind perversion." To this letter Dr. Charlesworth replied thus—"I may safely retort the words 'unblushing effrontery,' when I see the improvements in the coercion-system attacked, and a life charged



upon those improvements. I do not accuse any individual, but I retort the charge by saying that the man referred to was murdered by the old system, and that this calamity hastened the reforms. See, then, my Lord, how completely the tables are turned by this simple statement of facts. A writer in the Lincoln Herald indirectly accuses Dr. Charlesworth, and anonymously accuses him too, of having sacrificed a life to the blind spirit of perversion; which, certainly, is tantamount to a charge of murder against the Doctor; the Doctor in reply (and here let me step aside to observe that, as Dr. Charlesworth has himself told us, he never seems to have written whether anonymously or otherwise except in reply, which is much more than can be said of some others, for I find that Mr. Fisher himself was, as Mr. Hitchins has himself reminded us, by a weekly board of the 23d November last, severely reprimanded, according to the language of that Board, "for publishing under his signature certain letters manifestly injurious to the best interests of the Asylum.") Well, Dr. Charlesworth, in reply, says—"I accuse no individual, but I assert that William Scrivenger was murdered by the old system." Thus, then, as I observed before, Dr. Charlesworth, instead of being the accuser was the accused; instead of calumniating Mr. Fisher by a charge of murder, he was actually repelling that calumnious charge advanced against himself; and, even in his recrimination, he says "I accuse no individual, I accuse the old system." And yet this is the only foundation for the charge advanced against Dr. Charlesworth of having accused Mr. Fisher of murder! But, mark how this calumny against Dr. C. has been backed by the disingenuous conduct of Mr. Hitchins, for it is of this gentleman's misrepresentations that I am speaking. Mr. Hitchins, then, in his own report of his own speech on the 21st June last, asks—"Is it nothing anonymously to charge another with the crime, of all horrible crimes the most horrible, the crime of murder?" And then the report goes on to say in a parenthesis, that "Here Mr. H. was interrupted by Dr. C., who produced the article in the Lincoln paper, which he admitted to have written, and to which he attempted to give a different interpretation to the one put upon it by Mr. Hitchins." Thus, my Lord, you see that, instead of giving to the public the explanation which Dr. Charlesworth made, and which was, no doubt, the same as I have just made and as we have heard Dr. C. himself make, and which is perfectly satisfactory, he, (Mr. Hitchins,) says, "the Doctor attempted to give a different interpretation," leaving the public to infer that the Doctor attempted an explanation, but failed in making it good. Then again, with regard to the Doctor's recrimination against the old system—was that recrimination correct? Let this question be answered by the following Resolutions of a weekly Board of 16th February, 1829.—

"Resolved, that it appears to this Board, after full inquiry, that William Scrivenger died in consequence of being strapped to the bed in a strait-waistcoat during the night.

"Ordered, that the use of the strait-waistcoat be discontinued in this Institution except under the special written order of the Physician of the month; and that an attendant do continue in the room all night, whenever its use during the night shall be so ordered.

And yet, here again mark the disingenuous conduct of Mr. Hitchins, who, in his report (21st June) of Dr. Cookson's speech upon this subject, does not give the public Dr. Cookson's words, nay, does not give even a sketch of Dr. Cookson's arguments, but says 'Dr. Cookson most completely refuted the assertion of the death of the patient being solely attributable to the strait waistcoat.' Now, my Lord, whether the arguments of Dr. Cookson were so redoubtable, whether they did completely refute this assertion or not, I don't know, nor do I care; but, this I know, that neither your Lordship nor any other Governor will think yourselves bound to believe this, of the arguments of Dr. Cookson, upon the mere authority of Mr. Hitchins, seeing that his authority is directly negatived by the authority of the Weekly Board, which I have already quoted. So much for Mr. Hitchins faults of commission—now for his faults of omission. It certainly was of the utmost importance to the cause of truth, if truth, and truth only, had been the object of Mr. Hitchins, that the public, if they were, as they undoubtedly ought to have been, informed of any thing that passed at these meetings, should have been informed of every thing, and especially of every thing that was said, on the 21st June last, in his own defence, by Mr. Fisher, who defended himself in person. The upshot of that defence, as far as it has transpired, and as far, indeed, as it can be called a defence at all (for, really it appears to have been more like a renewed attack than a defence) and the upshot of every thing that was urged in Mr. Fisher's favor, by his different friends and supporters, appears to have been this—that Mr. Fisher had been subjected to great provocations by Dr. Charlesworth, and that he had made use of



insulting language, under the influence of momentary, but excusable, anger. This was the burthen of the defence. One person spoke of the irritation of the moment: another spoke of Mr. Fisher's writhing under the insults of the moment: a third spoke of rash, intemperate, and incautious language;—and Mr. Fisher himself, in his letter, (being an apologetic letter,) dated 1st June, addressed to the Governors, says by implication that the insulting language was “RELUCTANTLY extorted from him,” and he puts the word “reluctantly” into large, ostentatious capitals. (A laugh.) Well, then, let the truth and the value of this defence be judged of by the two following facts (mentioned by previous speakers) neither of which was communicated to the public by Mr. Hitchins. 1st, That Mr. Fisher's defence was a written defence, and was actually read from a written paper; and 2nd, That even that defence contained the following deliberately insulting passage “I used language in my letters which would have called a coward from his grave—but, this snivelling, pusillanimous coward went snivelling to his Reverend Confessor, and Dr. Charlesworth was borne off harmless under the banners of the church.” There, then my Lord, we have a full-length portrait of Mr. Fisher, and a faithful one, too, for it is drawn by his own hand! (vehement laughter and applause) and from this portrait, this proof impression, (laughter) the public might have seen what manner of man Mr. Fisher is;—but over this portrait Mr. Hitchins has thrown a thick veil, and has most scrupulously hidden it from the public eye! Not a word in his report of the precious morceau which I have just quoted. Not a word of it. Mr. Hitchins does indeed characterise Mr. Fisher's defence in the report. He says, “it was certainly any thing but conciliatory.” Any thing but conciliatory! Why, my Lord, the philosopher who never laughed but once in his life, and that once when he saw an ass mumbling thistles, (roars of laughter) would certainly have laughed outright, had he witnessed the GINGERLY manner in which Mr. Hitchins mumbles this morsel, (continued peals of laughter) no doubt, because he has tender lips and no relish for prickly thistles. (Bursts of laughter.)—Not a word neither about the important fact that Mr. Fisher's defence was a written defence, and actually read from a written paper. Not a word about this. No, my Lord, and with good reason, for, had this fact been communicated to the public, that public, (bearing in mind, too, that, according to the testimony of the Resolution of the Weekly Board of 31st May last, Mr. Fisher had there also repeated his original insulting language) that public, I say, bearing these two facts in mind, would, at once, have seen through the insufficiency, the hollowness, the hypocrisy, of the pretence that the original insult was ascribable solely to the irritation of the moment, and would have pronounced the continuance of Mr. Fisher in the Directorship, to be a measure most dangerous to the interests and most disgraceful to the character of the Asylum. (Applause.) And now, as to these provocations to which Mr. Fisher had been subjected, or rather, these persecutions (for that is the fashionable word, now-a-days) what were they? And here let us see a specimen of the exaggerations of the press. We have all of us heard enough, and more than enough, about the persecutions to which Mr. Fisher has been subjected by Dr. Charlesworth. Persecution, persecution, cruel persecution. These words have been rung in our ears until the public are almost deafened with the cry; and until, at all events, a considerable number of persons have been actually made to believe that Mr. Fisher was persecuted by Dr. Charlesworth. Now, I hate indefinite notions; I dislike vague generalities; let us endeavour to ascertain in what these acts of persecution, or some of them, consisted. And here Mr. Fisher shall speak for himself; upon this subject we cannot have a better authority. In his letter of the 1st June, which I before mentioned, which was a kind of apologetic letter, intended to bespeak the favor of the Governors before the meeting of the 21st, Mr. Fisher, after a great deal of vague complaining, uses these words,—“I do confess my feelings have been wounded; I do openly state my mind is strongly excited at the petty rules recently introduced, evidently for my annoyance.” Now, what were these obnoxious rules thus alluded to? What they all were I do not know; they were Rules, at all events; and one of them, undoubtedly, was the following Rule, under the head of General Economy:—

“That no stranger do pass a night in the house, or be entertained at the charge of this Institution, without an entry of the fact and the reason thereof, in the Director's journal ”

A most excellent Rule truly, in my opinion. It has been hinted to day, my Lord, by Sir E. F. Bromhead, and I have before been explicitly informed on competent authority, that Mr. Fisher did not scruple, on one occasion, openly to avow “that sometimes Governors did him the honor to dine with him, but that the Institution lost nothing thereby, for that he ate more at the houses of Governors than they ate at the In-



stitution." Why, my Lord, it is barely possible, I won't deny, that one Director may be able to eat as much as six Governors, (loud laughter) but, if this be the case, it must be extremely difficult to ascertain the correctness of an account like this, to strike a balance of loss and gain under this system of mutual feasting, this retaliation of attacks between marauding dinner parties; (continued laughter) and one thing above all others, is quite clear, namely, that whether the Director dine at home or abroad, whether he be host or guest, he cannot at the same time be attending to his duties as Director of this Asylum. (Great applause.) No wonder, therefore, that the first confession was followed, or preceded, (no matter which) by another confession equally astounding, namely, "That the keepers were guttling and guzzling all day, eating five meals a day, and getting so drunk that it was necessary to put them into strait waistcoats." No wonder at this, my Lord; here we have cause and effect;—here we have one evil following another, naturally and consequentially; and, if the rule which I have quoted, (and which is only a faint imitation of a rule of the Nottingham Asylum, intended for the same beneficial purpose, where the rule is much more severe) if this rule, I say, be, as it undoubtedly is, calculated to put a stop to proceedings and the consequence of proceedings, such as Mr. Fisher has himself described, why, certainly, that rule must have the hearty approbation of every well-wisher to the Asylum. And yet this is one of the rules which Mr. Fisher denominates persecution. Persecution! And, of course, certain citizen-Governors think themselves most relentlessly persecuted by the existence and the continuance of the rule relative to them, which I have already quoted. (Laughter.) Persecution! why, at this rate, the very rats and mice would, if they could speak, complain of persecution because we stop up the holes that would otherwise give them access to the contents of our larders. (Laughter.) Persecution! no doubt the cruelly persecuted Mr. Fisher most sincerely commiserates the sad case of certain cruelly persecuted citizen Governors; and, no doubt, certain cruelly persecuted citizen Governors (for they could do no less in return,) sincerely commiserate the case of the cruelly persecuted Mr. Fisher; let us, then, dismiss these objects of such relentless persecution, to seek for mutual consolation from each other, and, when they exhausted their own store, I would advise them to go for a fresh supply to their grand consoler, Mr. Hichins. This gentleman, whom it is so difficult to describe; who comes from Newark to Lincoln to speak speeches, and returns from Lincoln to Newark to print them; (laughter) who seems to think that popularity, if it can be obtained, is as well worth having in a bad cause as it is in a good one; this gentleman, who is so multiform, (a laugh) who presents himself to us in so many different shapes; at one time, dictating to us in the royal or imperial style "We," (continued laughter) at another time, as I have shewn, descending from his editorial throne (great laughter) divesting himself as it were of himself, and, in the garb of a correspondent, addressing the shadowy king, the mockery of himself, the nomis umbra, which he had left behind; (continued laughter) at a third time, coming into this assembly, in propria persona, and addressing us with the plain egotistical "I;" this gentleman, who is thus tripartite (a loud laugh) as the lawyers say, alternately editor, governor, and sham correspondent with himself, (peals of laughter) realising Mrs. Malaprop's description of Cerberus, "three gentlemen at once, (most uproarious laughter) and really we have heard that he can bark with three mouths at once, (shouts of laughter) this gentleman, this Mr. Hichins, who so strongly reminds me of the character of Justice Bolt, in one of Crabb's tales:—

"Silent sev'n days, he now began to long  
 "To try once more his voice so loud and strong;  
 "To give his fav'rite topic some new grace,  
 "And gain fresh honors in a distant place;  
 "To reap some present pleasure, and to sow  
 "The seeds of fame in after times to grow:  
 "Here, will men say, we heard at such an hour  
 "The best of speakers---wonderful his power!"

(Long continued laughter.) This gentleman has given us a specimen of his powers to day; but, powerful as his eloquence is (and it is powerful), still I must say that a speech more "full of emptiness and more replete with nothing," (Loud laughter,) I never heard in the course of my life. For what, my Lord, I ask, has Mr. Hichins proved? Has he proved the fairness, the candour, the straight-forwardness of the conduct of those Governors, who formed the majority which re-elected Mr. Fisher on the 28th of July last? for this is the



point upon which the whole matter hinges. We are not bound to discuss here the previous conduct of Mr. Fisher; a great deal has indeed been said about the services rendered by him to the Asylum, and great stress was, on a former occasion, laid upon the testimony borne by Dr. Charlesworth himself, in favor of those services; as if this argument did not cut, and cut deeply too, against those who use it; as if the readiness with which Dr. Charlesworth bestowed praises upon Mr. Fisher in 1828, as it completely proves the Doctor to be exempt from any of those unworthy motives, that have been attributed to him, did not intitle the Doctor's censures upon Mr. Fisher to the greater attention in 1830! as if the praises of 1828, so far from neutralising the censures of 1830; so far from proving Dr. Charlesworth to be inconsistent with himself, did not rather tend to establish the conclusion, that it is Mr. Fisher who is inconsistent with himself, and that the Mr. Fisher of 1828 was a very different man, in some important respects at least, from the Mr. Fisher of 1830. This is the conclusion, my Lord, which I should draw from the contrast between the Doctor's opinions at the two periods, and in drawing this conclusion I am completely borne out by the whole tenor, as well as by the result of the proceedings of the 21st June last; for, what do I there observe? why, that the most strenuous advocate of Mr. Fisher (Mr. Hitchins) was himself the mover of an amendment for a reprimand of Mr. Fisher, as the only chance which he had of securing that gentleman's continuance in the Directorship; that all Mr. Fisher's friends abandoned his justification; and that even Mr. Fisher himself *abandoned his own defence*, and sought to save himself from the shame of an open expulsion from office, by tendering his *resignation*. And here, my Lord, I believe, took place a circumstance which no previous speaker has alluded to, but which I will beg leave to recall to your Lordship's recollection.—Upon this resignation being announced to the meeting, by the Rev. Mr. Stephenson, on behalf of Mr. Fisher, your Lordship thinking, no doubt, of the fable of the cunning cat and the incredulous mice, (though pussy's *resignation* was not so successful) (*a Laugh*); thinking, from what you had just before witnessed of Mr. Fisher's outrageously insolent conduct, that this resignation might be all a sham, and intended to be a vehicle of and a cover for a trick upon the meeting—with these just suspicions, your Lordship put to Mr. Stephenson, I understand, the following significant and discriminating question, "Is this Resignation voluntary?" The answer was "yes." There then your Lordship, of course, presumed that you had the word of a man of honor and a gentleman. And what did this resignation, coupled with this assurance of Mr. Stephenson, amount to? Why, both put together, they amounted to a declaration from Mr. Fisher, to this effect, "I admit that my conduct is unjustifiable: I admit that I can no longer be continued Director of this Asylum: but, at the same time, in order to save myself from the disgrace of an open censure and an open expulsion from office, I hereby ask *permission to resign*." Well, after this apparently candid concession on the part of Mr. Fisher, permission to resign was granted out of mercy to him; and this favor thus extended to him did, no doubt, (although it differed but by a shade almost imperceptible from an open expulsion) preserve Mr. Fisher's character from the stigma with which it would otherwise have been branded, and, of course, all the Governors then assembled thought they should hear no more of Mr. Fisher's connection with, or his pretensions to, the Directorship of the Lunatic Asylum; and the next step they had to take was some



preliminary measure to call a meeting for the purpose of electing another Director in Mr. Fisher's place. This was done by the following advertisement. [Here Mr. P. read the advertisement for the meeting of 28th July.] Now, my Lord, although this advertisement does not expressly say that the meeting was to be held for the purpose of electing a *successor to Mr. Fisher*, yet there can be no doubt but that every Governor, of plain sense, acquainted with all the circumstances which led to the resignation, must so have regarded it; and a statement to that effect was, I presume, omitted in the advertisement only out of delicacy to Mr. Fisher. At all events, it would be a disgraceful thing indeed, if the course of fair dealing between man and man, in a society like this, were to be impeded by quibbles, technicalities, and mere formal omissions. Will any one, let me ask, contend that a proposal, for the re-election of Mr. Fisher, was consistent with the proceedings of a meeting which, after sitting in judgment upon Mr. Fisher, after discussing a motion for his discharge, not only refused to listen to an amendment for a mere reprimand and continuance of him in office, but even made a question of the propriety of accepting his resignation, instead of expelling him from his situation at once? As if Mr. Fisher, after this momentary dive, could possibly emerge a different man from what he was before! However, my Lord, to make this question independent of argument, to place it altogether beyond the reach of cavil, let us refer to the *Resolution* upon which the order for the advertisement and the advertisement itself were grounded, that Resolution was in the following words:—"Mr. Fisher having offered to act until the appointment of another Director; Resolved, that the same be accepted *until* the 31st day of July next. That £100 per annum be specified in the advertisement, as the salary of the *new Director*." This is enough. I might here, my Lord, at once cut short all further discussion about the invalidity of Mr. Fisher's re-election, by observing upon the monstrous anomaly of a meeting, called together for one object, and that object a special one too, actually terminating its proceedings by the accomplishment of another object, and not merely another object, but an object totally at variance with the one for which that meeting had been called together. Why, my Lord, if the laws of this Institution, emanating from these Boards, are to emanate, or to be supposed to emanate, as laws do, or ought to do, elsewhere in higher places, from men of honor; from men who give their word and will not palter; from men who are above all mean tricks and fraudulent artifices; this single circumstance, the monstrous incongruity which I have pointed out, must of itself be sufficient, in the opinion of all candid men, to damn this re-election as fraudulent, illegal, and void. (*Great applause.*) However, let us go on in search of further absurdities still. (*A laugh.*) Upon what ground, then, I ask, was the proposal for Mr. Fisher's re-election made? and upon what ground was that proposal adopted? Upon what ground? Why, upon the ground of Mr. Fisher's well-known merits and qualifications! What, my Lord! the merits, the qualifications, of a man who had been punished for misconduct, but a month before, by virtual expulsion from office—or, at least, whose expulsion had only been exchanged for the alternative of a permissive resignation, which was granted to him as a mercy, as a boon, as a favor, and as the only favor, too, to which his merits, after being fairly weighed in the balance against his demerits, were considered to have entitled him! Is it possible that any set of Governors could be guilty of a mockery like this? Yes, my Lord, verily and indeed, the



Governors, or, at least a majority of the Governors, assembled together on the 28th July last, were guilty of this insult, this mockery, this fraud upon the Governors then absent, and who had, in an evil hour, reposed such unmerited confidence in the fraudulently concocted resignation of the 21st June. Am I not right, then, in describing the authors of this measure as a faction, and in denominating the measure itself a fraud? It must be observed that, by the advertisement which I have read, a *condition* was attached to the offer of any person as a candidate for the Directorship, and that condition was that every candidate should send in his *name* and testimonials (not his testimonials merely, as Mr. Hitchins quoted the advertisement,) to the Secretary, four days before the day on which the election was to take place.—With this condition, simple as it was, Mr. Fisher did not comply; and, my Lord, let it not be forgotten that this non-compliance affords the most irrefragable proof *that Mr. Fisher himself was a party to the trick by which he was so surreptitiously re-introduced into the Asylum.* Mr. Hitchins has asked, what offence has Mr. Fisher been guilty of since his re-election? Why, *here was an offence, and a gross offence, too*, in the very mode by which that re-election was secured; and I call upon the Governors now present to punish Mr. Fisher for his share in this stratagem, by unceremoniously dismissing him from the Directorship now. I am for no conciliation in such a case as this; of course, the attendance of Governors at the meeting of 21st June, for the purpose of sitting in judgment upon Mr. Fisher, would be very numerous, because it was an unusual occasion which called them together, and a great many of those Governors who attended at that meeting would not think it necessary to attend at the subsequent meeting of the 28th July; they would naturally and properly leave the business of the latter meeting to those persons, and especially the physicians, most intimately acquainted with the merits and qualifications of the respective candidates, and their absence from the latter meeting was no more to be blamed than their presence was at the former one. But, if those Governors who were present at the meeting of 21st June, and who were not present at the meeting of 28th July, could have anticipated, if they could, for one moment, have dreamt of the possibility of any one's proposing the re-election of Mr. Fisher, would they not, I ask them, have hastened hither, one and all, determined to resist and defeat such an unjustifiable proposal?—[Here Mr. P. leaves the parties to answer for themselves.] He then alluded to the *Resolution* by which, on the 28th July, *a sum of five guineas was voted to each of the unsuccessful candidates out of the funds of the Institution*, and expressed great surprise at the measure.

Here *Dr. Cookson* interrupted the Speaker, and asserted that the proposal for this donation originated with the other party, and that Sir Edward Ff. Bromhead had made it.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said that he could not have proposed it, because he was in the chair on that day, but he certainly approved of it, thinking these gentlemen very hardly used.

*Mr. Paddison* proceeded—“No matter with whom the proposal originated; it was the act of the majority;” and, he then contended, at considerable length, that this act might be fairly interpreted into an admission on the part of that majority itself, that they were conscious of having been guilty of a stratagem for the purpose of deceiving the absent Governors, but which stratagem had also deceived the candidates, too, to whom, therefore, they thought some



compensation due for the expense and trouble into which they had been betrayed. "Accordingly," continued Mr. P., "a sum of fifteen guineas was paid out of the funds of the Institution, and thus was this disingenuous trick most appropriately followed up by a gross misapplication of these funds, a very pretty specimen, by the bye, of what may be expected to become of them, unless this majority should be taught better manners for the future, by the result of the proceedings of this day." (Loud applause.)

Mr. P. then proceeded to state that, as these facts and arguments were, in his opinion, quite conclusive against the validity of Mr. Fisher's re-election, he should here have dropped the discussion, being satisfied that, with all conscientious Governors, there could only be one opinion upon the subject; but that, as the present motion had a reference not merely to the invalidity of Mr. Fisher's re-election, but, by necessary consequence, to the validity of the *election of Mr. Marston*, justice to this latter gentleman, and to all those who supported the motion, demanded an exposure of a certain circumstance relative to Mr. Fisher's conduct, subsequently to the 28th July last. About a week after the proceedings of that day, a letter, dated 5th August, and signed "A Governor," had been published in the Stamford Mercury, which letter, he (Mr. P.) would now read.—[Here Mr. P. read the letter, which was upon the subject of Mr. Fisher's re-election, and which, amongst other things, contained the following passages:] \* \* \* \* \*

"At that Board, Mr. Fisher was re-elected by a majority of 30 to 20, and why? because it was most manifest that, of the other three candidates, not one was qualified for the situation."

And again

"The truth is, it is now become a matter of contest between one of the Physicians and the Director; and, it will be for a future Board to determine whether the latter is to be retained in his situation, the duties of which he has so long discharged with confessed ability." &c.

Mr. P. then, after reprobating the letter as insolent and libellous, not upon Mr. Marston merely, but upon the whole body of Candidates, charged Mr. Fisher with the publication of the libel, if not with the authorship of it, too.

The documents by which he substantiated this charge, consisted of a series of letters, forming a correspondence between Mr. Fisher and Mr. Marston, who had, of course, been anxious, from the first appearance of the letter, to ascertain who his calumniator was. The most material parts of this correspondence he (Mr. P.) would beg leave to read to the meeting. [Here some of the letters were read over: one of them was from Mr. Fisher to Mr. Drury, of Lincoln, stating that the letter alluded to had been put into the hands of him (Mr. Fisher) *by a Governor*: another letter, dated 15th August, was from Mr. Fisher to Mr. Marston, in the following words—

"Sir, the following is a copy of my note to Mr. Drury,"—Sir, in reply to your communication, I have only to say that the letter alluded to *was put into my hands, by a Governor*, and I *merely delivered it to you* to be forwarded. *It is probable I may see the author of the letter to-morrow*, and, till then, I have nothing more to communicate.—I am, Sir, Your's, Thos. Fisher."

There was another from Mr. Marston to Mr. Fisher, complaining



of the *silence* of the latter, after the last mentioned letter ; and, finally, the answer of Mr. F., dated 12th September, in the following words—

“ Sir, I have already answered your letter, and have nothing further to communicate.—Thos. Fisher.”

Upon this correspondence he (Mr. P.) had two observations to make, 1st,—That Mr. Fisher indirectly *denied that he was the author* of the libel in question, but admitted that he was the *publisher* of it ; and 2nd,—That great as were the pains that had been taken by Mr. Marston to obtain a knowledge of the real author's name, equally great pains had been taken by Mr. Fisher to conceal that knowledge from Mr. Marston. Not that it was of any consequence that they should know who was the real writer of the libel, for he (Mr. P.) was convinced that the Governors there assembled, would not suffer Mr. Fisher to escape from the indignation due to him as the publisher of this letter, by the flimsy pretence that he forsooth did not write it, but merely lent a hand in publishing it to the world ; that he forsooth did not mix the deadly ingredients, but merely assisted in administering the dose ! The speaker then pointed out the evasive nature of Mr. Fisher's portion of the correspondence, and said, that such were the symptoms of self-convicting guilt upon the face of it, that, *were it not for Mr. Fisher's denial*, no man could doubt but that he was really the *author* of the letter himself, which Mr. P. then characterised and denounced in severe terms. “ And here,” continued Mr. P. “ I cannot refrain from saying, for the sake of Mr. Fisher himself, that, if there be any libeller lurking in the back-ground, any wholesale dealer in this honorable species of ware, I do trust that he will now come forward, and that he will avow his production, and rescue Mr. Fisher from the predicament in which he is placed ; for, placed in a predicament he undoubtedly is, and especially when I state, as I now do, with the greatest reluctance, (for, the statement will place Mr. Fisher in a situation in which it is painful for me to see any gentleman placed) that there are respectable gentlemen in this court, *who have seen the original letter, and who are ready to depose upon oath, if necessary, that the letter is in Mr. Fisher's hand-writing*. These gentlemen will, of course, come forward, to speak to this fact, when I sit down ;—at present, I feel it to be unnecessary to make any comment, or to say a word more, upon this subject.

And now, my Lord, having said thus much in justice to Mr. Marston, I must observe, before I sit down, that, notwithstanding that I have described, and *proved* myself to be justified in describing, the party and the adherents of the party who re-elected Mr. Fisher, as a faction, still I am aware that there are unconsciously mixed up with that faction many honorable exceptions to the general character of the mass, men who are above any mean and unworthy action,—to such men, and to such men only, I beg, in conclusion, to address myself. I entreat you, then, gentlemen, to bear in mind on the one hand the *proofs* I have given of the base origin of the hostility to Dr. Charlesworth, of the exaggerations, misrepresentations, and omissions, of the press, of the unbearable insolence of Mr. Fisher previously to and on the 21st day of June last, of the unfair and suspicious conduct of the majority who re-elected him, of that majority's own consciousness of the impropriety of their conduct, and especially, of Mr. Fisher's own privity to the trick by which his re-election was secured, for this point must not be forgotten : and on the other hand, bear in mind that, by the testimony of Sir Andrew Halliday, a most en-



lightened and diligent investigator of the subject, this Asylum has, under the auspices of Dr. Charlesworth, by name, by way of pre-eminence, (and an enlightened board of Governors) attained the honor of being reputed and openly spoken of, as the best-conducted establishment of the kind in Europe, an honor to the county, and even to the empire itself. Sully not then the laurels you have won—tarnish not the honors which have been spontaneously awarded to you, and, for the possession of which, you are mainly indebted to the labours of Dr. Charlesworth, who has exerted himself night and day, in season and out of season, gratuitously and successfully, to establish for the Asylum a credit in which you are equally participators with himself; consult your consciences upon the whole case; separate yourselves from the leaven of selfishness with which you have unwarily got intermixed; suffer not yourselves to be duped into an unworthy support of a faction, whose only object seems to be to keep Mr. Fisher in for the purpose of turning Dr. Ch. out, and thus placing the funds, the resources, the discipline of the Institution, at the mercy of its servants and a select junto of Governors, and who, to gain that object, would not scruple, if we may judge from their actions, to sacrifice patients, physicians, every thing, in fact, worth preserving in the Asylum.

*Thomas Brailsford, Esq.*, stated that on his return from London, he had, as a friend of Mr. Marston's, called at the office of the Stamford Mercury, and claimed to see the letter which Mr. Fisher had stated himself to have transmitted, and he found the original in Mr. Fisher's own hand writing. Another copy in the same hand writing, had been placed in the letter box of the Herald Office.

*Mr. Hitchins* requested to explain,—My Lord, it is impossible for me to follow the last speaker, by way of explanation, through all the observations he has made, and which he would not have *dared* to have made, had he not known that, by the rules of discussion, I could not reply. I must therefore confine myself to the mere form of explanation, (the most difficult to be compelled to follow,) to enable me to make any observation on the rude attack of the Louth lawyer. He has talked of tricks which he has designated harlequin tricks; now I do not feel surprised at this *feed*, hired, and paid lawyer, talking about tricks, whose life is made up of them; different to the tricks of an harlequin, which are amusing. He has, my Lord, told you I possess three different and distinct characters:—Mr. Editor Hitchins, Mr. Governor Hitchins, and Mr. Correspondent Hitchins. Now, by way of a counterpart, we have Mr. Pantaloon Paddison, Mr. Clown Paddison, and Mr. Bone-grubber Paddison, the disciple and lecturer upon Cobbett. (*Question, question.*) He has taken upon himself to charge me with omissions, and that for not publishing Mr. Fisher's defence. Really, like his instructors, he has a polluted taste; for not having published it, I received the compliments and praise of several intelligent Governors, as having used a very sound discretion. Now, my Lord, I am, I can assure him, not at all desirous to exchange discretions; I beg to inform him, that my correspondence, particularly from Lincoln, has been



voluminous; but were I really deficient in correspondence, (from the specimen we have had of his eloquence,) I should be exceedingly sorry to admit any of his writing into the paper which, without fee or emolument, I have gratuitously had the honor to edit. For the leading articles of that paper I am responsible, and I own them as my production; but for the letters that appear, I consider that I am no otherwise responsible, except that they contain no libel; and I shall honestly and firmly continue, as I have ever done, to admit both sides to have fair play, and carry on their discussion. He has stated it to be a difficult matter to describe me. No difficulty presents itself in describing him, and its justice is apparent,—“a tinkling cymbal and sounding brass.” As regards myself, I do not object to be the subject of his attack, as being *feed* to support the brief which had been confided to him; but that he should be instructed to make such an unjustifiable and uncalled for attack upon the citizens of Lincoln, shows the feeling which dictated the proceeding. But, my Lord, neither myself, nor the citizens of Lincoln, will feel ourselves justified in noticing a man who has had the unblushing effrontery to acknowledge in your presence, and that of the whole Board, that it was *party spirit* and not *charitable feeling*, that made him a Governor.

*Rev. H. Sibthorp*—Sir Charles Anderson does me but justice, when he gives me credit for purity of motives. I am bound to say, that I was not aware, at the time, that the language which has been read was addressed to the Dean of Lincoln; had I known it, I certainly should not have voted for Mr. Fisher. (*Hear, hear.*) But, my Lord, the language which *that young man* has dared to utter, and the motives which he has dared to attribute to some of the Governors, I would tell him very ill become his situation. [Here it was stated bright exceptions had been made.] I scorn to avail myself of any exception; I have identified myself with the proceedings which I considered fair and honorable; I have identified myself with a party in which the citizens of Lincoln, who have been so basely slandered, hold a prominent station; and I take leave to tell *that young man*, that the citizens of Lincoln, in their individual and collective capacity, are as honorable, as upright, and as independent a body of men, as any with whom I wish to associate. They are men whose property places them beyond even the suspicion of temptation,—much less the charge made by *that young man*, of being guilty of acts of fraud. The brave Citizens of Paris and Brussels, had shown what Citizens could do when oppressed, and had hurled a mighty monarch from his throne in four days. (*Cheers.*) [The cries of question became loud and pressing.]

*Mr. Paddison* said, that having already trespassed upon the attention of the meeting at such great length, he was reluctant to



obtrude himself upon their notice again; nor, indeed, was there any necessity for doing so, because the facts and arguments with which, he flattered himself, he had sufficiently fortified his address, were not, in the least degree, affected by anything that had fallen from the reverend gentlemen who spoke last. The charge of personality he (Mr. P.) disowned, and this was the only objection that had been urged against him;—he had not been personal towards any one—(cries of oh! oh!)—he repeated that he had not indulged in any personality, for his observations had referred merely to the general foibles of human nature which was the same in all bodies of men;—he had not singled out any individuals, not having troubled himself to enquire even after the names of any of the Governors, and, therefore, he had nothing to retract. As to what had been said by Mr. Hitchins, he (Mr. P.) should not deign to make a single remark; he had come there independently, and, in this instance, would trust to the effect of silent contempt.

*C. Wing, Esq.*, would not, at so late an hour, and after such elaborate statements as they had heard, detain his Lordship and the meeting more than a very short time. He was anxious to take a brief notice of some observations addressed by Dr. Cookson to that meeting in favor of Mr. Fisher. He must beg to remind that gentleman of the opinions which he expressed at the Weekly Board of the 31st of May. Not having been present on that occasion, and wishing to prevent misinterpretation, he would read to them the remarks Dr. C. then made, and which could be substantiated by several gentlemen present. Dr. Cookson declared that “he had supported Mr. Fisher upon every occasion, when he thought he deserved it, but upon this there could be no difference of opinion, and if a man would cut his throat, his friends could not prevent it.” A discussion having arisen as to the day for a general consideration of the subject, “Dr. Cookson said, it was of little consequence, for there could be but one opinion about it.” He, (Mr. W.) with other Governors, relying upon the steadfastness of the offer, accepted of Mr. Fisher’s resignation on the 21st of June, and he now, in the conscientious exercise of his duty as a Governor, felt called upon, though painfully and most reluctantly, to protest against his re-election. He had assented to the resignation under the conviction, that, as a Reverend Governor was the mediator, they ought to give him credit for his being their bond of security for an act proceeding from himself. He had been desirous to meet the proposition from a feeling of consideration and forbearance to Mr. Fisher, rather than follow up the resolution of dismissal, which might have brought upon him an injurious stigma through life. A highly respectable and Rev. gentleman, a resident near this city, he entirely acquitted as to his share in the re-election, as he was absent from, and in no way participated in, the proceedings of the day in question, viz., the 21st of June, and which proceedings had never been fully ex-



plained to the public. He would add, too, that he gave his consent, after a defence which was of the most violent and premeditated nature, and without one redeeming point in it. It must be admitted, that whatever an individual's merits may be, his title to the Directorship of a Lunatic Asylum must be null and unavailable, if he possess not the spirit of discipline and a ready acquiescence in the orders of his superiors. Surely it is imperatively necessary in an institution like the present, in which its unhappy inmates are received on account of their having been deprived of the sovereignty of reason, and are placed under the controul of the minds and dispositions of others, for those minds and dispositions to be regulated by a kind, combined, and relative feeling of order and co-operation. With due submission to Dr. Cookson, for whose opinion Mr. W. entertained a high respect, he would beg to trespass a minute or two further upon their patience in touching upon Mr. Marston's fitness for the Directorship.—Mr. M. had studied two seasons in town, and his ability had been most creditably rewarded by a prize during that time. His general conduct, too, had been highly spoken of. He had not voted for Mr. Marston, and his only motive in now expressing his sentiments was to do justice to a meritorious individual. He would say that a formidable personal appearance was not the leading characteristic to entitle a candidate to the present situation. That celebrated anatomist Dr. Spurzheim, than whom no man living possesses a more intimate knowledge of the structure and functions of the brain, has said in his invaluable work on insanity, that “It is not sufficient for a physician to make his first approach with the assumed aspect of unbridled authority; indeed the suitable regulation of the feelings of insane people requires something more important than muscular strength, a martial look, a haughty countenance, and the assistance of keepers, manacles, and fetters.”

*Rev. H. I. Stevenson*—My Lord and gentlemen, it was my intention to have maintained, on the present occasion, a sullen silence; conscious that nothing I could say,—no reason, no argument that I could urge,—would have any effect on my audience; but as my name has twice been mentioned in the course of the debate, justice to my character demands from me some slight explanation. During the whole of my connexion with this Institution, I solemnly declare that I have been guided by public spirit, nor have I ever been actuated by party motives. I most positively and distinctly deny that there is the slightest ground for the attempted insinuation that Mr. Fisher's resignation was fraudulent, or that any intentions were entertained of his re-election. (*Hisses.*) After the senseless clamour has subsided I will proceed, and I appeal to the chair that I may be heard. (*Hear.*) I repeat, that no intention was then entertained that Mr. Fisher should be again put in nomination. On the occasion of his



resignation, the majority of Governors I knew was against us ; and of course we were obliged to accede to *any* terms that were proposed. Much more is this the case now, when such overwhelming numbers have been brought into the field, as a packed jury, for the purpose of ejecting Mr. Fisher. At the time of his re-election, the testimonials of none of the other candidates being thought satisfactory, I did not then, nor do I now think it, *but* for the benefit of the Institution, that he should be re-elected. The language of Mr. Fisher, as applied to the Dean, upon which so much stress has been laid to-day, I always pronounced to be unjustifiable ; nor have I ever yet, or ever shall, attempt to defend it. Some excuse I can allow for the excited state of his feelings, which persecution and oppression had wrought up to a pitch of ungovernable anger. I appeal to all the new Governors, and request and urge them to give a fair, an honourable, and an upright vote ; such an one as you may look back upon without regret ; such an one as your consciences may approve,—aye, such an one, I repeat, as your consciences may approve ; and with which, upon reflection, you may hereafter be satisfied. (*Much interruption.*)

*Mr. E. B. Drury* said, the Rev. Gentleman was treating them like children ; he had better have told them at once, that they must go to the “naughty place” if they differed from him.

*The Rev. R. Spranger*, addressing himself to the Chairman, spoke as follows :—My Lord,—At this late period of the evening I do not feel warranted in soliciting the indulgence of an audience beyond two minutes, literally so speaking. The situation of the new Governors has been repeatedly and pointedly alluded to, particularly by a former speaker, the Rev. Mr. Stephenson, who has *implored us* to consult the dictates of conscience on the votes we are about to give. As *one* of those new Governors, I beg leave for myself to say, that I answer to that call, and beg conscientiously to assure the Rev. Gentleman I can say, that my own vote will be entirely regulated by the case that has been made out this day—and that, looking to all the circumstances of that case, I can, with the utmost sincerity, lay my hand on my heart, and give *my* vote for the expulsion of Mr. Fisher.

The cries of “question, question,” towards the latter part of the debate, became overwhelming, whenever any pause gave a fair opportunity. When it was at last agreed that the question should be put.

*The Rev. H. Sibthorp* read a rule, from which he concluded that the voting must necessarily be by Ballot.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said, that the Rev. gentleman would find from the context, and the word “Election” printed in capitals at the top, that the Rule referred to did not apply to the present occasion, and had never been the practice. He had, when in the chair at large meetings, found it convenient that the Secretary should call



over the names of the Governors present, as entered on the face of the Minute Book. Each Governor could in that case answer "aye" or "no" and every one present might check the votes.

*Lord Yarborough* then directed the secretary to call the roll, when *Mr. Hitchins* rose and begged leave to put a Protest to the meeting. This was handed to the Chairman, who finding that it began "We the undersigned," said that it could not be put as an amendment, and that in fact it was too late, as the division had been referred to the Secretary.

*Sir E. Ef. Bromhead* said, that a Protest ought not to be put to the meeting; it was entered as a matter of right, if worded in decorous terms, at the foot of the proceedings. Any gentleman, who did not approve of *Sir Charles's* motion, might vote against it. If it was negatived, any other motion might be made.

*Colonel Sibthorp* said, that the Protest might be turned into the form of an amendment. He should not vote at all on the original motion.

The cries for "question" now became loud.

The Secretary called the roll, and the votes upon *Sir Charles's* motion were found as follows:

Ayes 130, Noes 3; Declined to vote 25.

Several strangers were present in court, but the mode of voting prevented any difficulty on that point.

*Sir C. Anderson* then moved the second resolution, (vide Minutes) upon which *Colonel Sibthorp* moved an amendment. (Vide Minutes.)

*Mr. Hitchins*, begged leave to take that opportunity of reading his Protest, to shew his view of the proceedings.

#### PROTEST.

We, the undersigned, being Governors of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, having duly taken into consideration the measures which have been proposed and adopted, at various times, to obtain the discharge of *Mr. Thomas Fisher*, the Director of the Institution, and more particularly those which have been adopted this day, do hereby enter our protest against all such proceedings, for the reasons following:—

1st, That *Mr. Fisher's* resignation having been duly received and accepted, he became eligible to be re-elected.

2d, That on the day of nomination and election, the majority of Governors did not think that the candidates, who offered themselves for the situation of Director, were qualified for the important duties which attach to the office, they not having produced certificates of the knowledge of the care and attention to the insane; and as the institution demanded at the hands of the Governors that its interests should be protected, nominated and re-appointed *Mr. Thomas Fisher*.

3d, That upon the nomination a motion was put to try his eligibility to be elected, which was decided by a large majority in his favour.

4th, That as he has been elected by a very considerable majority of Governors then present, and that as the power of the general board, by rule 15th, "to remove any officer whatever," is only for misbehaviour



or incompetency, and as no complaint has been made either of the misbehaviour or incompetency of Mr. Fisher, we think and hereby declare and protest against the attempt to remove him from the institution, as unconstitutional in its purpose, illegal in its act, destructive of all regularity, subversive of all order, and will lead with hasty steps to the final overthrow of the Institution.

The roll was again called, and Sir C. Anderson's motion was carried on division by a majority of 128 to 21.

*Thomas Brailsford, Esq.*, said that he considered Mr. Marston as duly elected, and moved as follows :

That Mr. Marston having the greatest number of legal votes, was duly elected, and he is hereby declared and appointed Director of this Institution.

*Mr. Snaith* seconded the motion.

*Dr. Cookson* condemned this hasty manner of proceeding to the election of Mr. Marston ; it was unjustifiable, and unwarrantable ; and he contended that there were not sufficient grounds for asserting that Mr. Marston would have had the greatest number of votes after Mr. Fisher. In his opinion it was an assumption to say such a thing : and, as he believed, was contrary to what would have been the result. He would answer for himself ; and knew that many other Governors who had voted for Mr. Fisher, held the same conviction, that Mr. Marston would *not* have been elected even if Mr. Fisher had not been deemed the only proper person to be appointed. Dr. Borton, he thought, would have had all the support which had been given to Mr. Fisher ; because, of the other candidates, he was decidedly the most suitable person, on account of his greater experience, his maturer years, and his physical strength, which was very important. In his opinion, Dr. Borton would have had the greatest number of votes ; and not this young man, which it was the aim of some to force into the situation, and who had not seen any practice in an Asylum, and never had had the care of an insane person, in his life. He, Dr. Cookson, had not gone with a party, as was the practice of others ; but had voted for Mr. Fisher, solely because he was the only one of the candidates that appeared to have the necessary attainments. He would repeat that Mr. Fisher was the only one that ought to have been entrusted with the important duties of the Directorship ; and, next to him, was Dr. Borton, decidedly.

*The Rev. W. M. Pierce* said, that he did not consider it any valid objection to Mr. Marston that he had not previously filled the office in another Asylum. Indeed, at the last Weekly Board, when they were appointing a keeper, Mr. Fisher had himself observed that he would prefer a keeper who had *never been in an Asylum during his life*.



*The Rev. H. Sibthorp* rose, and very warmly objected to this hasty procedure; it ought to be a matter of election. No doubt there was a majority present who could carry the motion if they pleased: but things ought not to be carried with too high a hand.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said, that there were two courses open; one was, directly to appoint Mr. Marston as having the greatest number of legal votes; the other was, to appoint him provisionally, subject to a future election.

*The Rev. H. Sibthorp* said, that if the latter course was adopted as a matter of conciliation, and to avoid revolting them, by carrying matters with such a high hand as to produce a reaction, Mr. Marston ought not to have any advantage from the circumstance.

*Thomas Brailsford, Esq.,* said that he would willingly meet the Rev. gentleman, by substituting the following motion, which would leave the matter open to a future election.

That Mr. Thomas Fisher's election being set aside, a Special General Meeting be convened as speedily as possible, for the election of a new Director, and that till such election can take place, Mr. Marston be and is hereby appointed to act as Director provisionally.

*Col. Elmhirst* seconded the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

On moving the Resolution disqualifying Mr. Fisher, in future,—

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* lamented the necessity of such a motion. The Journal, so often alluded to, had expressed a determination, whatever might be the decision of this board, and whoever might be appointed, to muster at the next Weekly Board to suspend the party, (without cause apparently,) and provisionally to restore Mr. Fisher.—The notice elegantly added, that his Lordship must trot over from Brocklesby weekly, to sustain the decisions of the General Courts. He would not press the motion, if the Rev. Gentleman opposite could undertake for these persons, that no such course would be pursued.

*The Rev. H. Sibthorp* wondered that such a responsibility should be thrown on him: he could answer only for himself. He could not blame the Hon. Bart. for pressing the motion after what had passed.

A Governor present said he thought it was quite unnecessary to make such an entry, as the thing was quite settled now.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said, I am not quite so sure of that; I thought we had done with it before.

After the motion was disposed of, his Lordship said he presumed that the business of the day had now drawn to a conclusion.



*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said it would be ungrateful in the Meeting to omit a vote of thanks (which he would read), for the intervention of his Lordship to save this noble establishment from ruin. (*Cheers.*) On this there could not be any debate to occupy time, and he looked for as little to a Resolution formally expressing their approbation of Dr. Charlesworth's conduct during the late events; this gentleman had been persecuted in an unheard of manner; the most hostile and unfair attempts had been made to hunt him down, for discharging his duty, and he was entitled to such a compensation at their hands.

The motions being seconded by *the Very Rev. the Dean*, were handed to the Chairman, when *Dr. Cookson* considered his own services to the Asylum as great as those of any other person. It was surprising to hear what a stress was laid upon the testimony, as it was termed, of Sir Andrew Halliday, a man who had never seen the Asylum in his life; and had taken all his account from Dr. Charlesworth alone, who had no doubt omitted all notice of any other Physician than himself; Sir Andrew Halliday, probably, did not so much as know there was any other Physician. (*Disapprobation.*) That young man, Mr. Paddison, had been heard for above three hours patiently; why was *he* to be thus interrupted. As for the imputation about visiting, it was very different to the representation of Mr. Paddison; there had been no waste, and no wonder Mr. Fisher felt indignant at the restrictions exercised, that even a piece of bread and cheese was not to be given to any friend who might call upon him: was a man of professional education to lead the life of a hermit because he undertook the Directorship of the Asylum?

*Colonel Sibthorp* said, that he should move, as an amendment, a vote of thanks to Dr. Cookson.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said he had not the smallest objection that a vote of thanks should be offered to Dr. Cookson, provided it extended also to Dr. Beaty, and this act of courtesy he would word as strongly as they pleased; but since Dr. Charlesworth had been specially dragged forward, he thought him entitled to a separate notice, whatever might be the Resolution applying to the Physicians generally. *The Very Rev. the Dean* considered it was only justice towards Dr. Charlesworth, that the ill-treatment he had received, should be noticed in a marked manner: and he had, on this principle, seconded the motion of the Hon. Baronet.

*R. Dawson, Esq.* was of opinion that the motion should not be pressed, the acts of the meeting having expressed their sense of what had passed.

*J. Corbett, Esq.* agreed with Mr. Dawson, that the opinion of the Governors had already been completely shown, more was



unnecessary : a tendency to conciliation had been shown, which ought to be met ; the meeting ought not to be divided at that time, and at its close ; anything like triumph should be avoided. The whole of the proceedings of the day had been most complimentary to Dr. Charlesworth.

*Dr. Charlesworth* regretted that any vote of thanks had been proposed specially to him—he did not consider the business of the meeting personal to himself : he had acted all along upon public grounds, and had had no other object in view than the welfare of the Institution. That object he believed had been fully obtained by the proceedings of this day, and this result was a gratification quite sufficient for him to receive. (*Applause.*) He did not wish for any distinction which could possibly be considered invidious towards the other physicians, and he entreated the proposal might be withdrawn.

In reference to what *Dr. Cookson* had said of *Sir Andrew Halliday*, he would remark that *every document* relative to the Institution, with Plans to a scale, and minute details of the management, had been forwarded to that gentleman ; so that he was perfectly qualified to express an opinion. All the printed Reports had been forwarded, in each of which the 3 physicians were named, with *Dr. Cookson's* name printed at the head.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said, that the Very Rev. the Dean was still of the same opinion as himself, that this was wanted to complete the proceedings ; but he would not think of saying a word more, after the Doctor's own remarks, and would support the general vote of thanks.

*Lord Yarborough.*—Gentlemen :—On the subject of entertaining company at the expense of the Asylum, *Dr. Cookson* once publicly addressed a question to me,—whether I should object to my Butler if he gave meat and drink to some of his acquaintance who might call to see him at my house ? I will now repeat the words in which I answered *Dr. Cookson* ;—I said, “ certainly not ; I would not find fault with my Butler or House Steward, if he gave away my beef and ale, because these are *my own* property : if however, this inquiry is to be applied to the provisions of a Public Institution, I reply, that I will not consent to the giving away of the smallest portion,—no, not of the value even of a farthing ! (*loud applause*) for that would be to give away the property of others.”

The funds of the Asylum were chiefly derived from the *payments of the patients themselves*, and it would be a great injustice to allow them to be applied to any other purposes than those for which they were charged. As far as the funds of the Institution were not concerned, he wished the Director to frequent good company, and to mix with society. It had never been the wish of any one to object to this. The



business of the day had required a great sacrifice of time and attention from the gentlemen present ; he hoped that the affairs of the Institution would be conducted, hereafter, with harmony among the Governors and increased benefit to the Patients.

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The meeting was then dissolved at ten o'clock at night. In the latter part of the evening some of the Minority expressed a wish to adjourn, which seemed however very unpalatable to the Board. An amusing incident occurred, which gave some color for the adjournment. The Keeper of the Castle having sent word that he must, by the rules of the prison, close the Castle gates, some gentlemen asked how they were to get out.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead* said, they had gone too far to stop now ; the proceedings must be finished that night ; he would as one of the Visiting Justices, take the responsibility of letting the gentlemen out, though the keeper himself had by the rules full power for the purpose.

*The Rev. H. Sibthorp* and the *Colonel* said, that they also were Visiting Justices, and were not clear how far they should approve of the meeting continuing within the Castle.—The matter however was not pressed, and we understand that his Lordship and the principal gentlemen present, sent a note of explanation to the High Sheriff on the following morning.

*Lord Yarborough* personally introduced and invested *Mr. Marston*, Surgeon, with the management of the Asylum on the same night.



# Minutes

## OF THE MEETING.

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*Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, Oct. 13, 1830.*

At a General Quarterly Board of Governors holden here this day:—

*Present*,—The Right Hon. Lord Yarborough, President, in the Chair:

The Rev. Sir Charles Anderson,  
Bart., V. P., Lea  
Captain Acton, Nottingham  
Mr. R. Allenby, Horncastle  
Mr. Anderson, Lea  
Mr. E. Anthony, Morton  
Mr. Atkinson, Brocklesby  
Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, Bart., V.P.,  
Thurlby Hall  
Mr. Barker, Sleaford  
Mr. Barton, Market Rasen  
Dr. Beaty, Lincoln  
Mr. Berwick, Scawby  
Rev. T. Best, Kirkby  
Mr. Blaze, Sleaford  
Mr. Boot, Lincoln  
Dr. Bousfield, Horncastle  
Mr. E. Bousfield  
Major Brackenbury, Skendleby  
Rev. C. Brackenbury, Mavis En-  
derby  
Mr. Brailsford, East Barkwith  
Mr. Bramley, Low Toynton  
Mr. H. Brooke, Boston  
Captain Brown, Lincoln  
Mr. Bullen, Greetwell  
Mr. Burcham, Coningsby  
Mr. Burton, Holton Beckering  
Mr. H. Causebrook, Thorpe-on-  
the-Hill  
Mr. Chambers, Silk Willoughby  
Dr. Charlesworth, Lincoln  
Rev. I. Chislett, Horncastle  
Mr. Clarke, Horncastle  
Mr. D. Clayton, Sleaford  
Mr. Clitherow, Horncastle  
Mr. M. Coates, Gainsbro'  
Dr. Cookson, Lincoln  
Mr. J. G. Corbett, Elsham Hall  
Mr. T. Corbett, Marcham-le-fen  
Rev. J. Crapps, Lincoln  
Mr. R. Cropper, Louth  
Rev. P. Curtois, Long Hills  
Mr. P. Curtois, Langrick Ferry  
The very Rev. the Dean of Lin-  
coln, V. P.

Mr. Danby, Horncastle  
Mr. Dawson, Withcall  
Mr. W. Dawson, Sleaford  
Mr. J. G. Dixon, Caistor  
Mr. E. B. Drury, Lincoln  
Mr. Edman, Lincoln  
Colonel Elmhirst, Scawby  
Mr. W. Elmhirst, Roughton  
Mr. W. Evins, Lincoln  
Mr. Fardell, M. P., Lincoln,  
(*Treasurer*)  
Mr. E. Farr, Bullington  
Mr. Alderman Featherby, Lin-  
coln  
Mr. J. G. Floyer, Ketsby  
Mr. Alderman Fowler, Lincoln  
Mr. E. Fowler, Lincoln  
Mr. H. George, Kirton  
Mr. E. Gibbeson, Redhall  
Mr. Gilbert, Little Carlton  
Mr. G. Gilhat, Horncastle  
Mr. Glasier, South Hyckham  
Mr. Godsell, Bracken Cottage  
Mr. A. Godsell,  
Mr. F. F. Goe, Louth  
Mr. Golden, Caenby Hall  
Mr. J. Graburn, Barton  
Mr. M. Graburn, Melton Ross  
Mr. H. Grantham, Scawby  
Rev. M. Hare, Lincoln  
Mr. Hargrave, Caistor  
Mr. Harneis, Thorganby Hall  
Mr. Harrison, Horncastle  
Mr. W. Harrold, Utterby  
Mr. S. Harvey, Lincoln  
Mr. J. Hayward, Lincoln  
Mr. H. Healey, High Risby  
Mr. G. Heneage, jun., Hainton  
Mr. E. Heneage, Hainton  
Mr. Alderman Hett, Lincoln  
Mr. Hewson, Lincoln  
Mr. Higgins, Alford  
Mr. Hitchens, Newark  
Mr. G. Holland, Ruckland  
Mr. E. Holland, Worlaby  
Rev. G. M. Holliwell, Irby



Mr. F. Hudson, Kirmington Vale  
 Mr. Hurst, Wragby  
 Mr. Hutton, Lincoln, (*Auditor*)  
 Mr. F. Iles, Barnoldby  
 Mr. Johnson, Horncastle  
 Mr. Jarratt, Hull  
 Captain Kennedy, Lincoln  
 Mr. W. Kirkby, Caistor  
 Mr. Lister, Girsby House  
 Mr. Loft, Louth  
 Mr. W. Loft, Grainthorpe  
 Rev. I. Loft, Stainton House  
 Mr. W. Loft, jun., Trusthorpe  
 Rev. J. Mackinnon, Bloxholm  
 Mr. Marr, Lincoln  
 Mr. G. Marris, Caistor  
 Mr. C. Marris, Croxton  
 Mr. Mason, Lincoln  
 Mr. T. Mason, Lincoln  
 The Worshipful the Mayor, Lincoln  
 Mr. Merryweather, Lincoln  
 Mr. T. Morris, Nottingham  
 Rev. J. A. Morris, Newark  
 Mr. R. Nainby, Barnoldby-le-beck  
 Mr. W. O. Nicholson, Brigg  
 Mr. Alderman Norton, Lincoln  
 Mr. Owston, Brigg  
 Mr. Paddison, Louth  
 Mr. J. S. Padley, Lincoln  
 Rev. Dr. Parkinson, Ravendale  
 Mr. Payne, Sleaford  
 Mr. Pell, Topholm  
 Rev. W. M. Pierce, West Ashby  
 Mr. Porter, Caistor  
 Mr. Rainey, Horncastle  
 Mr. Rayson, Horncastle  
 Mr. J. Richardson, Horkstow  
 Mr. J. Richardson, Winterton  
 Mr. Rudkin, Brigg  
 Colonel Sibthorp, M. P., Canwick  
 Rev. H. W. Sibthorp, Washingbro'

Mr. Sharman, Sleaford  
 Mr. P. Skipworth, Aylesby  
 Mr. B. Smith, Horbling  
 Mr. J. G. S. Smith, Melton Wood  
 Mr. J. Smith, Horncastle  
 Mr. Snaith, Horncastle  
 Mr. Alderman Snow, Lincoln  
 (*Auditor*)  
 Mr. G. Sprague, Lincoln  
 Rev. R. Spranger, Low Toynton  
 Mr. Alderman Steel, Lincoln  
 Rev. H. J. Stevenson, Newark  
 Mr. Stone, Normanby  
 Mr. Storey, Sleaford  
 Mr. C. F. Sutton, Wragby  
 Mr. Tallant, Rauceby  
 Mr. F. Taylor, Linwood  
 Mr. Taylor, Lincoln  
 Mr. W. Taylor, Thorpe-on-the-Hill  
 Mr. Thurlby, Sleaford  
 Mr. Tongue, Canwick  
 Mr. Trolove, Cawkwell  
 Mr. L. Trotter, Lincoln  
 Colonel Tufnell, Horkstow  
 Rev. S. Turner, Nettleton  
 Mr. T. Turner, Wragby  
 Mr. Uppleby, Wootton  
 Mr. Ward, Horncastle  
 Colonel Watson, Leasingham  
 Rev. D. S. Wayland, Bassingham  
 Mr. Welby, South Rauceby  
 Mr. Welfit, Manby  
 Captain Wettendale  
 Mr. E. Williams, Lincoln  
 Rev. J. Willson, Thorpe Hall  
 Mr. Wing, Louth  
 Rev. J. Wray, Bardney  
 Rev. J. F. Wray, Bardney  
 Mr. Wright, Brattleby  
 Mr. Wroot, Lincoln

Resolved,

That the resignation of Mr. Thos. Fisher, at the Special General Board held on the 21st day of June last, was the only cause which prevented his dismissal by that Board, for long continued impropriety of demeanour, not towards Dr. Charlesworth alone, but towards the Governors and the Boards generally; and that the said Board of the 21st of June, having been induced to accept such resignation, on the full faith that he thereby relinquished all future employ in the Institution, his subsequent re-appointment was brought about contrary to this understanding, and without the previous notice called for by the advertisement, and given by the other candidates.

Moved by the Rev. Sir Charles Anderson,  
 Seconded by Sir E. Ff. Bromhead.

Ayes 130—Noes 3;—Declined to vote 25.



That Mr. Thomas Fisher's re-election on the 28th of July be and is hereby set aside, not being *bona fide*, and being in direct violation of the compact entered into between the Governors and him at the Board of the 21st June, and that his then tendered resignation be carried into immediate effect, and he be removed from the office of Director forthwith, in consequence of his gross and repeated misbehaviour.

Moved by the Rev. Sir Charles Anderson,  
Seconded by Sir E. Ff. Bromhead.

---

The following amendment moved by Colonel Sibthorp, and seconded by Dr. Cookson, was negatived on division by 128 to 21 :—

That in consideration of the many testimonials this day produced and read, of the unimpeachable conduct of Mr. Thomas Fisher, and subsequent to his re-election to the situation of Director of the Institution, however former errors may have operated against him, he, the said Mr. Thomas Fisher, upon the full and prompt assurance on his part, that no act shall be committed for the future, that shall, in any way, incur the displeasure of the Governors of the Institution, do now have his re-election fully confirmed and established at this meeting.

---

That Mr. Thomas Fisher's election being set aside, a Special General Meeting be convened, as speedily as possible, for the election of a new Director, and that till such fresh election can take place, Mr. Marston be and is hereby appointed to act as Director provisionally.

Moved by Thomas Brailsford, Esq.,  
Seconded by Col. Elmhirst.

Carried unanimously.

That Mr. Thomas Fisher is hereby declared disqualified from being appointed, either provisionally or otherwise, to any office or situation in this Institution for the future.

Moved by Sir E. Ff. Bromhead,  
Seconded by the Rev. W. M. Pierce.

That the warmest thanks of this Board be offered to Dr. Cookson, Dr. Charlesworth, and Dr. Beaty, for their zealous exertions to promote the welfare of this Institution.

Moved by J. G. Corbett, Esq.,  
Seconded by Col. Sibthorp.

YARBOROUGH, Chairman.

That the grateful thanks of this Board are due to the Right Honorable the President, for the interest so long taken in the welfare of the Asylum, by his Lordship's family, and for the spirit which he has shown in rescuing this Institution from a ruinous state of insubordination and disorder.



# Appendix.

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## OFFICIAL PAPERS AND AUTHORITIES

*Referred to in the Report.*

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### I.

*Lord Yarborough*,—————“My enquiries were directed towards precedents, for revising the proceedings of General Boards; and in 1827 there was found an instance set by those gentlemen themselves who support Mr. Fisher, in which a Weekly Board had called a Special Meeting to revise the proceedings of a General Board.”—page 12.

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*Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, April 9, 1827.*

At a Meeting of the Committee holden here this day:

*Present*,---The Rev. J. NELSON, in the Chair;

|                     |                   |                       |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| The Rev. J. Carter, | E. Fowler, Esq.   | The Rev. Mr. Curtois, |
| Dr. Cookson,        | Mr. Merryweather, | The Rev. G. D. Kent.  |

Resolved,---That a Resolution made at the Quarterly Board of Governors, on Wednesday, the 28th of March last, respecting the erection of additional cells, &c. was irregular and illegal.

That the Mayor of Lincoln, Mr. Alderman R. Featherby, Mr. Alderman Wriglesworth, and Mr. Alderman Snow, have not been duly elected Governors of the Lincoln Asylum, nor accredited as such by the Committee, as required by Rule 5, of this Institution.

That a copy of the last Resolution be sent to Mr. Mason, the town clerk.

That a SPECIAL MEETING of the Governors of the Asylum be summoned for the purpose of taking into consideration, and of determining upon the propriety of carrying into effect Resolutions made at two former Quarterly Boards, upon a plan proposed by Dr. Hett, and improved upon by Mr. Fisher.

That a copy of these Resolutions be sent to the Treasurer, with a request that he will not authorise the payment of any sum of money, on account of any alterations, unless sanctioned by the Committee, or confirmed by a special, or Quarterly Board, of Governors.

That the Director, Mr. Fisher, do not suffer any building materials to be laid within the premises of the Asylum.

(Signed)

J. NELSON.



### II.

*Sir E. Ff. Bromhead*— \* \* \* \* “the precedent in 1827, quoted by his Lordship, set the question of order at rest;—the very gentlemen who now complained, had themselves, in 1827, convened a Special



Board, to revise the acts of the General Quarterly Board;— \* \* \* the Special Board of that day had not questioned the right of the Weekly Board to convene them, but it had resented the unjustifiable insult offered to the Court of Aldermen, had confirmed the improved system, and set on foot the formation of the beautiful Court Yards, and of the spacious Gallery erected with such judgment and economy, where they had assembled that day.” (*Cheers.*) page 19.

*Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, July 28, 1827.*

At a special Meeting of the Governors, holden here this day:—

*Present*,---The Right Hon. Lord YARBOROUGH, in the Chair;

|                                      |                          |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Rev. Sir C. Anderson, Bart.          | Mr. Ald. Snow,           | Mr. Merryweather,  |
| Sir E. Ff. Bromhead, Bart.           | Charles Mainwaring, Esq. | Capt. Wright,      |
| Col. Sibthorp, M.P.                  | George Mannors, Esq.     | T. Winn, Esq.      |
| G. F. Heneage, Esq., M.P.            | Clifford King, Esq.      | H. Otter, Esq.     |
| Very Rev. the Dean of Lincoln,       | John Fardell, Esq.       | R. Otter, Esq.     |
| Venerable the Archdeacon of Stow,    | W. Wellfit, Esq.         | Rev. G. D. Kent,   |
| Rev. the Precentor of Lincoln,       | J. Loft, Esq.            | W. B. Burton, Esq. |
| The Worshipful the Mayor of Lincoln, | W. Loft, Esq.            | H. Hutton, Esq.    |
| Mr. Ald. Rt. Featherby,              | T. Brailsford, Esq.      | G. Tennyson, Esq.  |
| Mr. Ald. Wm. Featherby,              | Dr. Cookson,             | Rev. J. Nelson,    |
| Mr. Ald. Wriglesworth,               | Rev. Ed. Bromhead,       | Rev. J. Carter,    |
|                                      | P. Bullen, Esq.          | Dr. Charlesworth,  |
|                                      | E. Fowler, Esq.          | Rev. P. Curtois;   |
|                                      | C. Hayward, Esq.         |                    |

A Resolution having been proposed that the conditions of Rule 5 have not been complied with, as far as relates to the admission of certain gentlemen elected Corporation Governors;

Resolved,---That the gentlemen of the Corporation have been regularly admitted.

Resolved,---That the proceedings of the last Quarterly Board appear to this Meeting to have been regular and legal.

Resolved,---That the Very Rev. the Dean, the Worshipful the Mayor for the time being, Sir E. F. Bromhead, Bart., the Precentor, Major King, Dr. Cookson, Dr. Charlesworth, Mr. Fardell, and Mr. Alderman Snow, be a Committee to carry into effect the Plan now produced, or any part of it, or to vary it at their discretion, taking care to connect the Noisy Cells with the main building in the first instance.

Resolved,---That the said Committee are not authorised to exceed in their expenditure the sum of £1,500.

Resolved,---That the thanks of this Meeting be given to Dr. Charlesworth, for the Plan produced by him this day and approved. (Signed) YARBOROUGH.

Resolved,---That the best thanks of this Meeting be given to the Right Hon. the Chairman, for his conduct in the chair this day, and for the kind interest he has uniformly taken in the welfare of this Institution.

*Extract from the Fourth Report of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, April, 1828.*

“ An important change has been effected, during the last year, in the affairs of the Asylum. At a Special General Meeting (in July, 1827,) the Right Hon. the President in the Chair, being by much the most numerous and respectable Board of Governors hitherto held, the Institution was placed under a new system of management; and it was resolved that a Committee should be appointed for carrying into effect a plan, that might combine all the necessary improvements, which the advanced state of public knowledge has so long imperatively pointed out. Among various other advantages the new plan embraces the following objects:—

1. The means of Classing the Patients generally, or of separating them according to circumstances, are effectually afforded.

2. The Convalescents are separated from the other Patients, and are placed in apartments at the ends of the Front Galleries, eminently cheerful and not presenting any appearance of confinement.



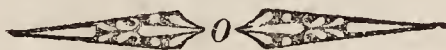
3. The Ordinary Patients have the uninterrupted use of the Front Galleries.
4. The Insensible, and the highly excited Patients, withdrawn from the rest, are removed from the Front of the Building, to a situation affording every comfort, and every facility for the attention, which their cases may require.
5. The Upper Rank Patients are brought from the Back to the Front; and the degrees of Rank are more rigidly observed, as the Patients approach to convalescence, and as they consequently become more sensible of such distinctions.
6. The Airing Courts are greatly enlarged, and extend *beyond the shade of the Buildings*: all have prospects, and some of them of great extent.
7. The Front Grounds are rendered more private by the formation of a second entrance for persons on business: and the Patients will not see their friends approaching the house, which is often very improper.
8. The Kitchen, and the Noisy Cells, are removed from the front to the rear of the Building, which renders the whole south front available for the enjoyment of the more sensible Patients.
9. The House is relieved from the smell of the Kitchen, and the smoke of the Outbuildings.
10. The Laundry and other offices, which can give employment to the Female Patients, are attached to the Female side of the House.
11. There will be accommodation for 20 additional Patients.

“Towards the attainment of these objects very considerable progress has been made; and, on the Male side of the Building, the present year will offer the gratifying spectacle of Airing Grounds, most amply sufficient for health and amusement, with every facility for that Classification, which, together with exercise and employment, may be deemed the corner stone of complete recovery.

“The Governors in the course of these improvements have not ventured to trespass, even to the smallest extent, beyond the funds in hand, which are already sufficient to complete the male side of the Building. Effectively to place the female Wing and Grounds on a proper footing, would probably require an additional sum of from £1500 to £2000, which, it may reasonably be hoped, will be accumulated by a few years of rigid economy, and the gradual accession of Benefactors to this munificent monument of Public Charity. Till such a sum can be raised, this part of the Asylum must remain in its present state, subject to all the disadvantages, which have been so long and so seriously regretted.”

(Signed)

YARBOROUGH.



### III.

*Mr. Paddison*,—————“We have all of us either heard or read of the horrible atrocities of the York and Bethlehem Institutions; of the shocking secrets that were revealed by the investigation into the state and management of the York Institution, especially before a Parliamentary Committee, in the year 1815.—page 31.

### MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

*Taken before the Select Committee of the House of Commons. appointed to consider of Provisions being made for the better Regulations of Madhouses in England.*

Lunæ 1<sup>o</sup> die Maii. 1815.

THE RIGHT HONORABLE GEO. ROSE, IN THE CHAIR.

“*Godfrey Higgins, Esq., called in and examined.*

“Where do you live?—At Skellow Grange, near Doncaster, in Yorkshire.

“You are a Governor of the York Asylum, and a Magistrate of the West-Riding of Yorkshire?  
I am.



“Have you any knowledge of the state and condition of the York Lunatic Asylum, and the method of treatment of the patients in that Asylum?---I have.

“Have the goodness to state to the Committee, how you became possessed of that information?---In the year 1813, application was made to me to grant a warrant against a man who had assaulted a poor woman; upon inquiry I found the man to be insane, and ordered him to be sent to the Asylum, at York: some time afterwards he returned, and I was informed he had been extremely ill used; (the name of the man was William Vickers;) in consequence of this, I published several letters and other documents, upon which various meetings of the Governors were held from time to time for the course of twelve months, until the 27th of August last; upon which day all the servants and officers of the house were dismissed, or their places declared vacant, except one. Not being perfectly satisfied with what was done, I thought it incumbent upon me to publish a letter to Lord Fitzwilliam, as Lord Lieutenant of that Riding; in which, to the best of my knowledge, I stated every thing that I knew relating to the Institution and to the abuses which had taken place in that house. The appendix contains a report of the Committee appointed to investigate the abuses, and the new rules and regulations.

*[A copy of this Pamphlet was laid upon the Table of the Committee.]*

“In what condition did you find the Asylum when you visited it in the Spring Assize week of 1814?---Having suspicions in my mind that there were some parts of that Asylum which had not been seen, I went early in the morning, determined to examine every place; after ordering a great number of doors to be opened, I came to one which was in a retired situation in the kitchen apartments, and which was almost hid by the opening of a door in the passage; I ordered this door to be opened; the keepers hesitated, and said, the apartment belonged to the women, and they had not the key; I ordered them to get the key, but it was said to be mislaid, and not to be found at the moment; upon this I grew angry, and told them I insisted upon its being found, and if they would not find it, I could find a key at the kitchen fire-side, namely, the poker; upon that the key was immediately brought. When the door was opened, I went into the passage, and I found four cells, I think, of about eight feet square, in a very horrid and filthy situation, the straw appeared to be almost saturated with urine and excrement; there was some bedding laid upon the straw in one cell, in the others only loose straw; a man (a keeper) was in the passage doing something, but what I do not know; the walls were daubed with excrement; the air holes, of which there was one in each cell, were partly filled with it; in one cell there were two pewter chamber pots loose. I asked the keeper if these cells were inhabited by the patients? and was told they were at night. I then desired him to take me up stairs, and shew me the place of the women who came out of those cells that morning; I then went up stairs, and he shewed me into a room, which I caused him to measure, and the size of which he told me was twelve feet by seven feet ten inches, and in which there were thirteen women, who he told me had all come out of those cells that morning.

“Were they pauper women?---I do not know; I was afraid that afterwards he should deny that, and therefore I went in and said to him, ‘Now, sir, clap your hand upon the head of this woman,’ and I did so too; and I said, ‘Is this one of the very women that were in those cells last night,’ and he said she was; I became very sick, and could not remain longer in the room, I vomited. In the course of an hour and a half after this, I procured Colonel Cooke, of Owston, and John Cooke, Esq., of Campsmount, to examine those cells; they had come to attend a special meeting which I had caused to be called that day at twelve o’clock; whilst I was standing at the door of the cells waiting for the key, a young woman ran past me, amongst the men servants, decently dressed; I asked who she was, and was told by Atkinson, that she was a female patient of respectable connections. At a special meeting of the Governors which I had caused to be called, I told them what I had seen, and I asked Atkinson the Apothecary, in their presence, if what I had said was not correctly true; and I told him, if he intended to deny any part of it, he must do it then; he bowed his assent, and acknowledged what I said was true. I then desired the Governors to come with me to see those cells; and then I discovered, for the first time, that the cells were unknown to the Governors; several of the Committee, which consisted of fifteen, told me they had never seen them, that they had gone round the house with his Grace the Archbishop of York, that they had understood they were to see the whole house, and these cells had not been shewn to them. We went through the cells, and at that time they had been cleaned as much as they could in so short a space of time. I turned up the straw in one of them, with my umbrella, and pointed out to the gentlemen the chain and handcuff which were then concealed beneath the straw, and which I then perceived had been fixed into a board newly put down in the floor. I afterwards inquired of one of the Committee of five, who had been appointed to afford any temporary accommodations which they could for a moderate sum of money to the patients, if those cells had been shewn to that Committee, and I was told they had not. Before I saw these cells, I had been repeatedly told by Atkinson, the Apothecary, and the Keepers, that I had seen the whole house that was occupied by patients; I afterwards was told by a professional man, Mr. Pritchett, that he had heard Mr. Watson, the Architect, ask one of the Keepers what those places were; Mr. Watson at that time was looking out of the staircase window, and he heard the Keeper answer Mr. Watson, that they were cellars and other little offices: the day after my examination of these cells, I went again early in the morning to examine them, after I knew that the straw could have been used only one night; and I can positively say, from this examination, that the straw which I first found there, must have been in use a very considerable time. Early in the investigation which took place



into this Institution, several gentlemen came forward to state that they had examined the house on purpose to form a judgment of it, but though several of them were present when I stated the case of these cells, they did not state that they had seen them. When Colonel Cooke, of Owston, was in one of the cells, he tried to make marks or letters in the excrement remaining on the floor after it had been cleaned, and fresh straw put into it, which he did without any difficulty, and which he will be ready to state to the Committee if required. The day after I saw these cells, I went up into the apartments of the upper class of female patients, with one of the men Keepers as I should suppose, about thirty years of age, one of those who were dismissed in August; and I asked him, when at the door of the ward, if his key would not open those doors; I did not give him time to answer, but I seized the key from his hand, and with it opened the outer door of the ward, and then went and opened the bedroom doors of the upper class of female patients, and locked them again; I then gave him his key again; Mr. Samuel Tuke, a Quaker, of York, was standing by and saw me."

[Mr. Higgins has since remarked "The Institution (York) is now placed on the very best footing, as to management:---the Buildings are greatly improved by large airy Rooms and spacious Courts."]



#### IV.

*Mr. P.* continued—"I cannot discuss this subject so fully my Lord, as I should wish; I will therefore observe, that the Fifth Report of this Institution, bearing the signature of the Precentor, a document which, though very brief, is very able, and which ought to be in the possession of every Governor, contains some admirable sentiments upon the subject."—*p. 32.*

*The Fifth Report of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, June, 1829.*

#### INSPECTION.

"During the last session of Parliament two important Acts were passed, consolidating the whole of the existing law concerning Lunatic Asylums, and introducing a great variety of improvements for the prevention of abuses.

"When the bills were first brought into Parliament, they contained a variety of clauses for the visitation and control of Public Asylums. These clauses were dropped in the progress of the bills through Parliament; and it has been the feeling of the Governors of this Institution, that this confidence, so liberally placed in them by the Legislature, should be met by every possible exertion on their part to adopt the views of Parliament as far as applicable.

"It may indeed be laid down as a principle in human nature, which experience will amply confirm, that no Institution of this sort can be considered safe in its management, where the Managers are not subject to some eye unconnected with the government of the Institution itself. The public eye and public opinion have, in all cases, been found the most efficient; and the original Rules of this Institution, wisely and humanely acting upon this principle, court and avow a system of public inspection under due regulation. This same principle the Governors have now further pursued, by endeavouring to give additional facility to the observation of the state of the Patients and of the Institution, by all respectable classes of society. At the same time they have opened a second entrance to the Asylum, by which they have prevented all persons approaching the house merely on business, from passing continually through the very midst of the Patients, in their principal exercise ground as heretofore: and have also taken means to prevent strangers from addressing the Patients, or even making remarks in their presence, by placing them under the care of a responsible officer, while passing through the wards. Every opportunity is afforded to all who inspect the Asylum, to record any observations and suggestions they may think proper to make; and where, in any case, peculiarity in the disease may imperatively require privacy,



the Director is fully authorized to prevent inspection in such ease ; under this condition however, that he is required to lay all the circumstances of the case before the proper authorities, without delay, in order to secure from abuse this hazardous though necessary discretion.

#### COERCION.

“ The Governors have particularly directed their views to the subject of Coercion and Restraints, well aware of their injurious consequences to the Patients, and seeing from the late Parliamentary investigations on these points, the deplorable results which caprice, tyranny, negligence, and above all a wish to avoid necessary attention and trouble, have elsewhere produced. In order to ascertain the number and condition of the instruments in use for these purposes, instead of being dispersed in all parts of the house under the control of the inferior keepers as heretofore, they are now collected in a single apartment, accessible at once, and open to inspection at any moment. In the next place, the Governors have adopted a Register universally used in the Scotch Asylums, wherein the Director is bound to enter the nature of every instance of restraint, and the time of its continuance, during the night as well as the day. And lastly, the construction of the instruments in use having also been carefully examined ; they have destroyed a considerable proportion of those, that were not of the most improved and least irritating description, and hope hereafter to introduce still further amelioration into this department.

#### DIVINE SERVICE.

“ One of the Acts of Parliament alluded to, and various investigations before Parliamentary Committees, having shewn the strong feeling of the Legislature against a total neglect of religious duties in these establishments, the attention of the Governors has been further drawn to this point. The danger of excitement in all cases, and particularly of religious impressions in peculiar forms of insanity, are perfectly obvious. But it having been found by experience, that the periodical performance of divine service has been very beneficial to the patients, as being in accordance with the former healthy habits of their minds, the Governors have been very desirous that portions of Scripture should be read to selected classes of the patients on the Lord's day ; a custom adopted with great benefit elsewhere, and not exposed to the danger of enthusiastic addresses, or the excitement of private conferences. The funds of the Institution however, not being capable of affording the expense of a regular Chaplain, this wish of the Governors has not been carried into effect.

#### FORMS OF ADMISSION.

“ The new Act of Parliament requiring a considerable modification in the Forms hitherto used in the admission of Patients, these Forms have been altered accordingly and enlarged, and now embody almost every information, which can be required to facilitate this object. They have been extensively circulated among the Magistrates, the resident Clergy, and the Faculty of the County.

#### PATIENTS' ACCOUNTS.

“ These forms will also be found to exhibit an improved system of payments in advance on the admission of Patients, from which a greater regularity in the accounts of the Institution, and an increased convenience to the friends of the Patients, are expected to arise. In the statement of the terms of admission which they contain, it will be observed that a reduction has taken place in the rate at which the poorer patients may be received. The Governors feel much satisfaction in drawing the attention of the Public to this point, and would have experienced still greater pleasure in doing more in this way ; but they are well aware that such a reduction as would lead to a false economy in the attendance upon the Patients, in their comforts, and especially in the nutritive and digestible qualities of their diet, could not fail to be attended with the very worst effect upon the treatment of the disease, and consequently be productive of vital injury to the main object and design of the Establishment.



## GENERAL ACCOUNTS.

"It remains only further to observe that the Governors, while attempting to introduce the utmost punctuality, accuracy, and economy, into the private accounts of the Patients, have not neglected the public accounts of the Institution: a Committee has for some time been appointed to arrange them, to class the papers and documents, and to form an improved system of book-keeping; the whole details being, by the avowed principles of the Institution, open to the most minute investigation of each individual Governor.

"Directions have been given for a regular Digest to be formed, of the several cases and their Medical treatment: a document on which, it is presumed, the medical character of the Institution, and its future utility, greatly depend.

"The new Airing Grounds have been for some time in use, and with the new Buildings now in occupation, are found to conduce most essentially to the comfort of the Patients.

(Signed)

R. PRETYMAN, Chairman.



## V.

Dr. Charlesworth———"The Strait-waistcoat was abolished in New Bethlem."—page 26.

## HOUSE OF COMMONS.

Mercurii 10<sup>o</sup> die Maii, 1815.

Mr. John Haslam called in, and Examined.

\* \* \* "the Strait-waistcoat, for the best reasons, is never employed by me."

"What are the disadvantages you conceive attending on the use of the Strait-waistcoat?—The hands are completely secured, if the Strait-waistcoat be tied tightly, respiration is prevented or impeded, and it is always at the mercy of the keeper how tight he chooses to tie the waistcoat. If the patient be irritated by itching in any part, he is unable to administer the relief by scratching, or if troubled with flies; in hot weather it is a painful incumbrance; and, if not changed, is liable to absorb a great deal of perspiration, which renders sometimes the skin excoriated. He cannot wipe his nose, and he becomes a driveller in consequence; he cannot assist himself in the evacuation of his urine or his fæces, or possess personal cleanliness, as long as the Strait-waistcoat is applied. Then there is another very curious effect that has resulted from keeping on the Strait-waistcoat for a considerable time; in every human hand, accustomed to use the organ of touch, the sentient, or palpitating extremities, or tangent extremities, are deadened, as to their sensibility, from want of use; the nails are pinched up, and I have seen some instances, where patients have been long kept in the Strait-waistcoat, where the nail has resembled the claw of an animal; so that I can pretty nearly judge by the look of the hand of a lunatic, if I do not see his face, whether he has been the subject of a Strait-waistcoat a long while."



## VI.

R. Paddison, Esq.,———"By the testimony of Sir Andrew Halliday.—page 42.

Sir A. Halliday's Report of the number of Insane Persons in the several counties of England and Wales: September, 1829.—p. 23.

"LINCOLN."

"The Lunatics and Idiots in this county (Lincoln) amount, by the returns of the Clerks of the Peace of its several divisions, (and which, I must remark, have been most correctly made out,) to one hundred and eighteen males and one hundred and eleven females. Only twenty-three individuals, included in the number above stated, are confined in the county Asylum,—an establishment which, under the superintendence of Dr. Charlesworth, and a



board of intelligent Governors, may be considered as one of the best conducted establishments of the kind in Europe. The situation chosen was excellent; the arrangements for classification and treatment, moral as well as medical, are most complete; and, upon the whole, this Asylum does honor, not only to the county of Lincoln, but to the whole empire."—page 24.



## VII.

*Lord Yarborough*—"The funds of the Asylum were chiefly derived from the *payments of the Patients themselves*, and it would be a great injustice to allow them to be applied to any other purposes than those for which they were charged."—page 52.

### *Extract from the Sixth Report of the Lincoln Lunatic Asylum.*

SUMS RECEIVED, or due, from PATIENTS for CARE and MAINTENANCE,  
According to their different rates of payment,  
From the Opening of the Institution in March, 1820, to December 31st, 1829.

|             |              | £. | s. | d. |           | £.   | s. | d. |        | £.                 | s. | d. |
|-------------|--------------|----|----|----|-----------|------|----|----|--------|--------------------|----|----|
| 1st Rank .. | 1 Patient at | 2  | 12 | 6  | per week, | 6    | 7  | 6  |        |                    |    |    |
|             | 2 .....      | 2  | 2  | 0  | .....     | 43   | 10 | 0  | } .... | 156                | 7  | 7  |
|             | 2 .....      | 1  | 11 | 6  | .....     | 59   | 3  | 6  |        |                    |    |    |
|             | 2 .....      | 1  | 5  | 0  | .....     | 47   | 6  | 7  |        |                    |    |    |
|             | 25 .....     | 1  | 1  | 0  | .....     | 1232 | 0  | 0  | ....   | 1232               | 0  | 0  |
| 2nd Rank,   | 42 .....     | 0  | 15 | 0  | .....     | 1188 | 13 | 9½ | ....   | 1188               | 13 | 9½ |
| 3rd Rank,   | 23 .....     | 0  | 12 | 0  | .....     | 374  | 16 | 11 |        |                    |    |    |
|             | 162 .....    | 0  | 10 | 0  | .....     | 4838 | 3  | 11 |        |                    |    |    |
|             | 66 .....     | 0  | 9  | 0  | .....     | 829  | 8  | 2  | ....   | 6042               | 9  | 0  |
|             |              |    |    |    |           |      |    |    |        | <u>£8619 10 4½</u> |    |    |



## VIII.

*Lincoln Lunatic Asylum, Nov. 25, 1830.*

At a Special General Meeting of the Governors, holden here this day,

*The Very Rev. the Dean, V. P., in the Chair;*

Mr. Marston and Dr. Borton being respectively put in nomination, the Votes and Proxies were as follows:—

Mr. Marston .. .. . 90

Dr. Borton .. .. . 16

Whereupon Mr. Marston was declared to be duly elected.

(Signed)

GEORGE GORDON.







